# June 2021





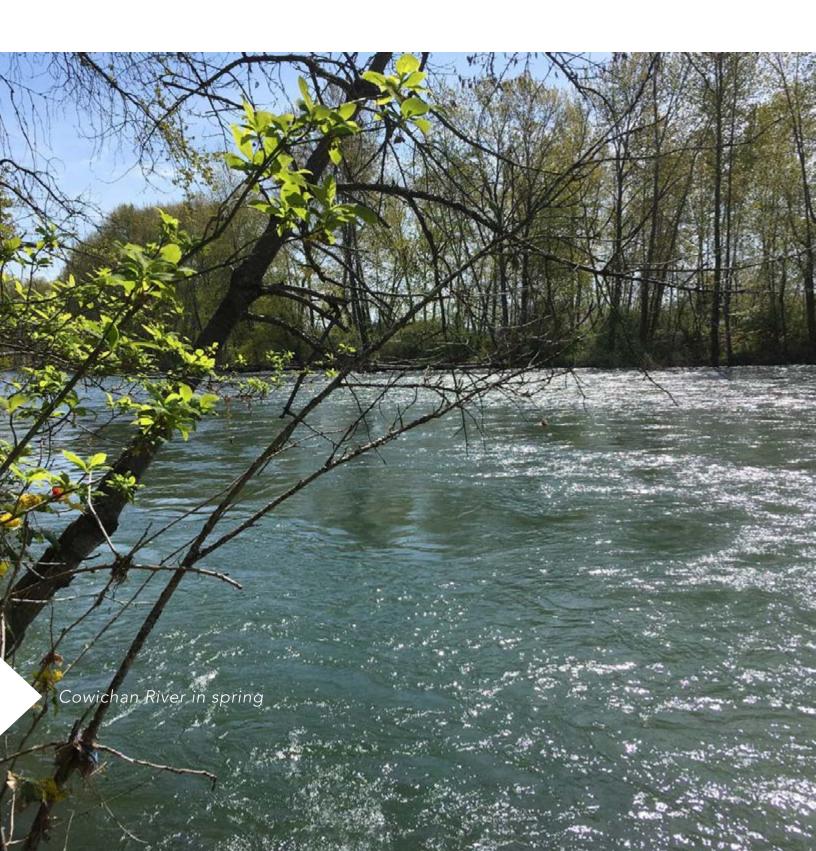








The City of Duncan acknowledges that the land of McAdam and Rotary Parks is in the traditional, unceded territory of Cowichan Tribes, a Coast Salish people.



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# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## **OVERVIEW**

The McAdam and Rotary Parks Master Plan is a long-term vision and strategy for building on and renewing the parks' existing natural assets, addressing current issues, and planning for a future that supports a productive natural environment while welcoming a wide range of people to use and enjoy the parks. A Master Plan is a high-level living document intended to guide future decision-making, while remaining flexible to evolve as a result of new information, adaptation, and changing public needs.

### **PROCESS**

PHASE 1
Gathering Ideas

Spring 2018

PHASE 2
Exploring Options

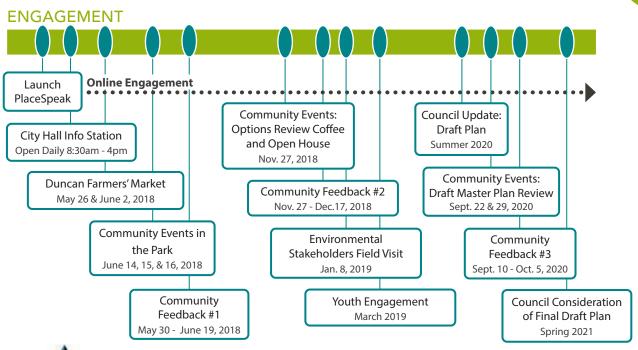
Summer 2018 - Spring 2019

PHASE 3

Developing a Plan

Spring 2019 - Spring 2021

McAdam & Rotary Parks Master Plan





### THE PARKS TODAY

McAdam and Rotary Parks form a 40-acre contiguous green space that is important to natural systems and quality of life for residents of Duncan and surrounding communities. Key existing amenities include:

- ▶ Cowichan River Riparian Zone: The Cowichan River and adjacent riparian zones are defining features of McAdam and Rotary Parks, providing important habitat for fish, bird, and animal species. The river's edge is culturally significant, and is a favourite recreational destination for swimming (people and dogs), fishing, and nature appreciation.
- Fish Gut Alley and Intermittent Channels: Fish Gut Alley is a side channel north of the Cowichan River that connects via Somenos Creek into the river east of the Vancouver Island Trout Hatchery. Fish Gut Alley is an important salmon spawning and rearing channel, but recent impacts have affected its productivity.
- ► McAdam Field Area: The McAdam Field Area includes a grass playing field and the surrounding areas and amenities including a washroom / concession building, practice field, storage shed, announcer booth, Memorial Grove, and open space.
- ▶ **Rotary Field Area:** Rotary Field was upgraded in 2014, including new fencing, irrigation, turf improvements, bleachers, lighting, and water fountains. The field is used for sports practices and games.
- ▶ Tennis Court Area: The tennis court area is adjacent to the parking area off Al Wilson Grove and has one fenced outdoor tennis court with asphalt surfacing. There are no ancillary amenities such as lighting, seating, or water fountains. Trails connect the tennis court area to the Cowichan Dike Trail to the south and Rotary Field to the east. Grassy areas with mature Black Cottonwood define the east edge of the area.

- ► Cowichan Dike and Park Trails: Cowichan Dike
  Trail travels through Rotary Park linking to the
  larger Somenos Trail Loop. The Cowichan Dike Trail
  is popular for running, walking, rolling, and dogwalking, providing a 3.5 m wide accessible route
  through the park. Formal and informal park trails
  link into this spine.
- ▶ Off-Leash Dog Area: Currently much of McAdam and Rotary Parks are designated as off-leash dog area, excluding the sports fields and other activity zones.
- ► Cowichan Preschool: Established in 1977 in McAdam Park, the Cowichan Preschool offers learning programs to preschool-aged children.
- ➤ **Signage:** Three types of signs currently exist in the parks: regulatory, directional, and interpretive.

  The existing interpretive signs provide information about environmental ecosystems, wildlife,

  Cowichan River, and more. Park signs indicate arrival to the parks, provide information about forest areas, and outline regulatory information.
- ▶ Parking Areas: Paved parking areas exist at the Wharncliffe Rd entrance to McAdam Park and at the Al Wilson Grove entrance to Rotary Park. On-street parallel parking is available along Wharncliffe Rd and Beech Ave, as well as limited parking on McKinstry Rd.

### **ENGAGEMENT**

A three-phase engagement process was undertaken during the development of the Master Plan.

- Phase 1 focused on reviewing information about the parks' background and existing conditions, gathering preliminary ideas from the community, and beginning to build a framework of opportunities and constraints. This information was used to create a draft Vision and Guiding Principles and a broad set of initial ideas to be explored in the planning process.
- Phase 2 involved review of the Vision and Guiding Principles and the consideration of ideas to bring these to life. The goal of this phase was to explore as broad a range of potential ideas as possible, evaluating and identifying those that could warrant development in the draft plan, and to eliminate ideas that may not be suitable for the parks.
- **Phase 3** focused on reviewing, refining, and prioritizing draft Master Plan directions.



Public event in Rotary Park

### **VISION & GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

A Vision statement describes a long-term future for McAdam and Rotary Parks. Aspirational in nature, it helps to guide decisions about future park changes and development.

Located on the Cowichan River, McAdam and Rotary Parks are Duncan's riverfront parks, offering something for everyone to enjoy. They continue to be a natural respite within the city, providing protected and enhanced habitat areas for salmon and a range of plant and animal species. With safe, accessible trails for runners, walkers, cyclists, and dog-walkers; inviting views of the river; family-friendly amenities; and active sports fields, the parks are year-round destinations for residents and visitors alike.

Four Guiding Principles support realization of the Vision by providing specific guidance for future projects within McAdam and Rotary Parks:

- Protect and restore natural areas and riparian ecosystems
- Improve safety
- Increase trails and accessibility
- Upgrade and integrate recreational amenities



### MASTER PLAN CONCEPT

The illustrated Master Plan Concept below summarizes a proposed Vision for the parks. This plan is an illustration of how the Vision, Guiding Principles, and Recommendations could be incorporated and will be used to set planning directions and priorities. The numbers correspond with the recommendation numbers outlined in Section 5 of this Master Plan.



Map 1: Master Plan Concept

### **CIRCULATION**

- 14) RETAIN CURRENT PARKING & IDENTIFY STRATEGIES FOR EVENTS
- 15) CREATE WELCOMING PARK ENTRIES
- 16) REFINE AND EXPAND THE PARK TRAIL NETWORK (see *Map 17*)
- 17) CLEARLY DEFINE OFF- AND ON-LEASH TRAILS FOR DOGS (see *Map 22*)
- 18) ADD WAYFINDING, INTERPRETIVE, AND REGULATORY SIGNAGE (see *Map 23*)
- 19) ADD LIGHTING AT PARK ENTRIES, STRUCTURES, AND KEY TRAILS (see Map 24)
- 20) PROVIDE ADDITIONAL BICYCLE FACILITIES

### SAFETY, PROGRAMS, AND EXPANSION

- 21) IMPROVE PARK SAFETY (not shown on map)
- DIVERSIFY PARK PROGRAMS AND FOSTER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (not shown on map)
- 23) CONSIDER PARK EXPANSION









# 1 | INTRODUCTION

The McAdam and Rotary Parks Master Plan is a long-term Vision and strategy for enhancing the parks' existing natural assets, addressing current issues, and planning for a future that welcomes a wide range of people to use and enjoy the parks. A Master Plan is a high-level living document intended to guide future decision-making, while remaining flexible to evolve as a result of new information, adaptation, and changing public needs.

# 1.1 PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

There is much that people love about McAdam and Rotary Parks. In 2018, a student placemaking project on McAdam Park was presented to Council and identified a desire from Duncan's youth to have more access to outdoor recreation opportunities. The project tabled the idea of a parkour area to create a fun, physical, and free recreation activity in the park. During the 2018 budget deliberations, Council approved a financial commitment of \$200,000 for a playground. However, before proceeding, it was decided that a long-term plan for both McAdam and Rotary Parks would be a valuable tool so that new amenities align with an overarching Vision for the future and contribute to a cohesive park area.

The Master Plan process is an opportunity to consider the parks today and identify short-, medium-, and longterm actions that will help them remain protected and well-loved community assets for years to come. A Master Plan does not illustrate an exact or final layout for all potential improvements; rather it provides a Vision, concept, and actions for planning, assessing, and implementing future changes over time.

The plan was undertaken with the following objectives:

- ► Learn how the parks are being used now;
- Engage with stakeholders, members of the public, staff, and Council;
- Understand key issues and develop potential options to address these issues;
- ▶ Develop a strong Vision; and
- ▶ Outline recommendations that support the Vision and can be used for the City planning, prioritizing, and budgeting for park improvements over time.

Recommendations in this plan should be reviewed and adjusted regularly to reflect changes in the physical environment and in the community.



# 1.2 THE PLANNING PROCESS

McAdam and Rotary Parks offer visitors a place of sanctuary within the city. To create a Vision and plan that protects the inherent values of the park while reflecting the needs of citizens, a three-phase process was used to develop the Master Plan. The process was initiated in Spring 2018 and completed in Spring 2021. Each phase involved public engagement to ask participants for their opinions, ideas, and concerns.

# PHASE 1

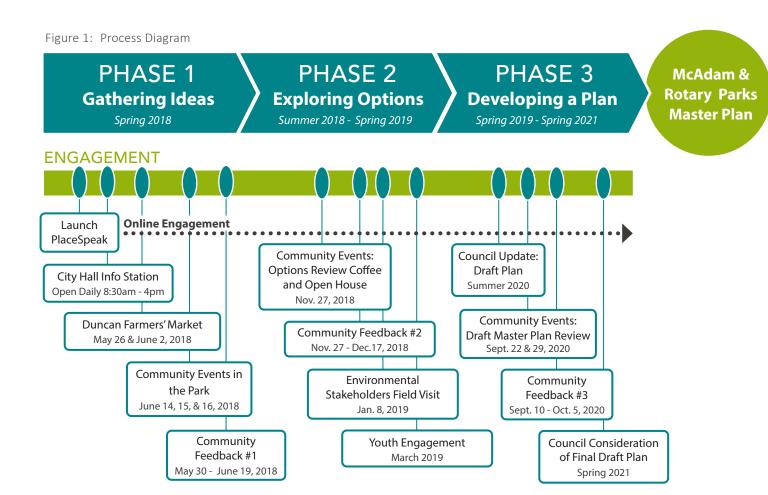
Gather information, inventory existing conditions, identify opportunities and constraints, and gather preliminary ideas from the community.

# PHASE 2

Draft and review a Vision and Guiding Principles, explore a broad range of ideas, work with the community to focus in on directions that warrant further consideration and eliminate those not considered suitable.

# PHASE 3

Refine preferred directions, develop a Draft Master Plan, work with community members and stakeholders to confirm, refine, and finalize directions into a Final Master Plan.





# 2 | THE PARKS TODAY

McAdam and Rotary Parks form a 40-acre contiguous green space that is important to natural systems and quality of life for residents of Duncan and surrounding communities. Gathering information and knowledge about the parks' physical, social, historical, and planning context helps to build an understanding of where we are starting and where we may be going in the future.

Located on the traditional territory of Cowichan Tribes, McAdam and Rotary Parks are a cultural, natural, recreational, and social hub. Known for a combination of natural areas, active sports facilities, a well-used trails network, and Cowichan River access, these parks have a central role in the well-being of all local residents. While the parks provide important natural and recreational services, a number of challenges exist, such as an aging tree canopy, user group conflicts, accessibility limitations, limited amenities, and illicit or undesirable activities.

To date, there has been no comprehensive plan for McAdam or Rotary Parks, so the parks have evolved incrementally as infrastructure and facilities have been added or upgraded.

In the absence of a comprehensive Vision, piecemeal park development can lead to a collection of amenities that do not necessarily serve the whole community, work cohesively, or provide efficient delivery of services. The Master Plan process provides an opportunity to consider the collective parks area and bring forward a cohesive Vision and set of directions that support logical and sustainable decision-making for the future.



# 2.2 LOCATION

McAdam and Rotary Parks are situated at the southeast corner of the City of Duncan, along the north bank of the Cowichan River.

The parks are bordered by low and medium density residential areas to the north and the Cowichan River to the south. Rotary Park connects with the Trans Canada Highway to the west at the Cowichan River Bridge (Silver Bridge), adjacent to established commercial areas along and across the highway. To the east, the park is bordered by natural areas along the Cowichan River.

The parks are in Duncan's Marchmont neighbourhood, which is an established residential area, largely developed in the 1960s. The neighbourhood has a mix of multi-family housing and commercial areas near Island Highway.

As the only city parks on the east side of Island Highway, McAdam and Rotary Parks play an important role in delivery of both neighbourhood and City-wide parks services.

Map 2: Location of McAdam and Rotary Parks



# 2.3 CONTEXT

## 2.3.1 Cowichan Tribes

McAdam and Rotary Parks are within the traditional territory of Cowichan Tribes, a Coast Salish people. With a population of approximately 5,000 people, Cowichan Tribes are the largest Indigenous group in the province and are part of the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group.

The Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group have identified a "Statement of Intent" area referred to as the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group Core traditional territory that covers approximately 350,000 hectares of southeastern Vancouver Island and the Southern Gulf Islands and extends to the lower reaches of the Fraser River.<sup>1</sup>

Flowing 47 km from Cowichan Lake easterly to Cowichan Bay, the Cowichan River runs through the heart of the Cowichan Territory, and is important to Cowichan Tribes people for food, spiritual wellbeing, and medicine, among other uses. The river is known for its salmon population and their role in the food web for people, animals, and the overall ecosystem health.<sup>2</sup> Refer to *Section 2.3.3: Natural Areas* for additional information about the Cowichan River.

# 2.3.2 Park History

McAdam Park was established in 1967 as a Centennial Project by the City of Duncan. It was named after William McAdam and his son Ken McAdam who had previously owned and operated the Cowichan Cricket Club on the land.

Rotary Park was dedicated by Rotary International. The dedication sign reads: "This 27-acre property was donated by the Rotary Club to the City of Duncan for recreational use in perpetuity by the people of the Cowichan Valley and those who visit here."



Cowichan River



McAdam Park dedication plaque



Rotary Park dedication plaque



<sup>1</sup> Shxunutun's Tu Suleluxwtst. In the footsteps of our Ancestors: Interim Strategic Land Plan for the Hul'qumi'num Core Traditional Territory, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> The Cowichan: A Canadian Heritage River / 10-Year Monitoring Report, Madrone Environmental Services, 2003.

## 2.3.3 Natural Areas

The Cowichan River, Fish Gut Alley, and adjacent riparian areas play a vital ecological role for fish, wildlife, and bird species. According to the Land Conservancy of BC, the river provides habitat for trout, salmon, otter, beaver, marten, mink, weasel, raccoon, squirrel, bats, shrews, voles, osprey, bald eagles, hawks, heron, and owls.<sup>3</sup> The Cowichan River is one of the most productive fish-bearing rivers on Vancouver Island because of its abundance of salmonid species.<sup>4</sup>

Fish Gut Alley, a side channel that runs between Rotary Park and McAdam Park, is known to support yearround habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. In the early 1980s, the City of Duncan, in partnership with the Federal Government's Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), constructed the Cowichan Dike along the north edge of the Cowichan River floodplain to protect the City from flooding. DFO identified an opportunity to construct, within McAdam and Rotary Parks, a fishery spawning and rearing channel and pond, known as Fish Gut Alley. The fish habitat is unusually valuable because the stream flows are from a spring that produces year-round discharges with warm temperatures (9-14°C) that are optimal for rearing of young salmon fry. In its early years, Fish Gut Alley produced upwards of 19,000 fry and smolts.<sup>5</sup>

In recent years, the stream habitat has become choked with sediment and vegetation and fish production has declined. Cowichan Tribes, the City of Duncan, and DFO have been exploring regeneration of the spawning and rearing habitat within Fish Gut Alley.

Map 3: Fish Gut Alley Channel and Ponds / Culverts



<sup>3</sup> The Land Conservancy, 2016. http://conservancy.bc.ca/transferred-properties/cowichan-river.

<sup>4</sup> NHC, 2009. Cowichan Valley Regional District Lower Cowichan / Koksilah River Integrated Flood Management Plan Final Report.

Aqua-tex, 2020. Personal communication.



Cowichan Dike



Fish Gut Alley

Since Fish Gut Alley lies within the protected floodplain behind the Cowichan Dike, a pair of culverts in the dike discharge stream channel flows into a small bypass stream that flows into the Cowichan River. During high flood events in the Cowichan River the culverts are closed and flows are routed to a large underground vault, part of the City's stormwater management facility, at the end of Marchmont Road. Four large capacity pumps discharge stormwater runoff through a pipe in the dike which discharges into the same bypass stream that receives flows from Fish Gut Alley. The Vancouver Island Trout Hatchery, located adjacent to the Fish Gut Alley culverts, also discharges its stream flows into the bypass stream adjacent to the dike.<sup>6</sup>

In early September 2010, the first documented fish kill occurred in the bypass stream. This was investigated by DFO and was attributed to stormwater discharges into the bypass stream. DFO reported that the dead

fish included mostly juvenile Coho, stickleback, sculpins, and possibly some trout. Another fish kill was reported on September 7, 2010. The September 9, 2011 issue of the Cowichan News Leader reported three salmon kills in the Cowichan River that were attributed to stormwater released after rain events. A report on water quality data collected in 2013 as part of the Cowichan Watershed Assessment, for the BC Ministry of Environment, stated that fish kills had been reported over the past two years in Fish Gut Alley due to stormwater discharges.<sup>7</sup> Investigations concluded that the cause of fish mortalities was stormwater discharged into the bypass channel tributary.

In 2018 the City of Duncan conducted a study to determine if the stormwater contained contaminants that could be considered lethal to fish and explain the periodic fish kills reported in the vicinity of the stormwater pumped from the Marchmont vault. The study revealed that dissolved oxygen concentrations in the vault just prior to pumped discharges were very low during dry weather, and may be lethal to juvenile salmon or trout that utilize the bypass channel, where the stormwater is pumped, as rearing habitat.<sup>8</sup>

In 2019 the City of Duncan implemented new stormwater management practices at the Marchmont facility to ensure discharged stormwater contains sufficient dissolved oxygen concentrations to prevent harm to fish in the bypass stream.

<sup>6</sup> Aqua-tex, 2020. Personal communication.



Pumps at the Marchmont Vault to discharge stormwater

<sup>7</sup> Smorong & Epps, 2014. Water Quality Report.

<sup>8</sup> Aqua-tex, 2020. Personal communication.

In addition to providing habitat for a range of flora and fauna, McAdam and Rotary Parks' natural areas offer a valuable community ecosystem service in the form of flood attenuation. Natural areas such as McAdam and Rotary Parks help to decrease vulnerability of adjacent residential areas to flooding by conveying and storing water during flood events.

The Cowichan Valley has experienced many flood events resulting from high flows in the river and its tributaries. According to the Lower Cowichan / Koksilah River Integrated Flood Management Plan (2009), the Cowichan Dike through Rotary Park may require future updates to accommodate 200-year flood events. The plan also recommends selective vegetation removal along the dike for safety – with tree planting to compensate.<sup>9</sup>

9 NHC, 2009. Cowichan Valley Regional District Lower Cowichan / Koksilah River Integrated Flood Management Plan Final Report.



Cowichan River flooding in 2020



Cowichan River in Spring

Forest cover in the parks is dominated by mature Black Cottonwood trees. Black Cottonwood is a fast growing, short-lived tree and an important provider of wildlife habitat and helps to stabilize soils, filter contaminants, and absorb significant quantities of water.<sup>10</sup> A characteristic of Cottonwood trees is weak limbs, which can lead to breakage of large limbs during winds and these trees have become more vulnerable as they reach the end of their life span. Signage in the park recounts that a large number of mature park trees were lost to a windstorm and subsequent clearing in 1995 which has affected ecosystem evolution in the area. Long-term forest management will require the planting of a new generation of trees to replace the Cottonwoods with a more diverse mix of species such as balsam fir, western redcedar, big leaf maple, and Sitka spruce (final species to be recommended through arborist review).

In areas along the river and Fish Gut Alley, the understory (i.e., lower-level vegetation) is typically thick native shrubs and woody debris with a mix of invasives such as blackberry, holly, Scotch broom, and English ivy. In several park areas, the understory has been cleared, with lawn in open areas or under the tree canopy.

10 Diamond Head Consulting Ltd., 2009. City of Duncan Urban Forest Strategy.



Black Cottonwood Trees in Rotary Park

In 2003, the 47 km mainstem of the Cowichan River was designated a Canadian Heritage River due to its natural, cultural, and recreational values. The river is a well known destination for fishing, nature viewing, kayaking, canoing, photography, hiking, and camping. The parks provide access to many of these values within reach of the urban population.

It is well documented that natural areas offer important physiological and sociological benefits. Spending time outdoors reduces stress levels, encourages active living and community connectedness, and improves physical and mental health. Many people visiting these parks recognize and value these benefits.

While the Cowichan River and natural areas along its banks are cherished by many, urban systems and past land use activities have led to lasting environmental impacts. Recent studies indicate that the number of returning spawners for Fall Coho and Chinook have been reduced by approximately 90% from levels documented in the previous 80 years, although Chinook abundance has increased each year since 2009. The river supports a valued winter run of Steelhead trout, whose status is a conservation concern. The BC Ministry of Environment is undertaking rebuilding efforts to increase regional stocks.<sup>12</sup>

Fish in the Cowichan River

Chinook Salmon
Chum Salmon
Coho Salmon

Steelhead Trout
Rainbow Trout
Cutthroat Trout
Brown Trout

Species in decline as indicated by the CVRD 2015 State of Environment Report

11 Canadian Heritage Rivers System, 2017. chrs.ca/the-rivers/cowichan.

12 CVRD State of the Environment Report / Fish, 2015.

Urban impacts on the Cowichan River, Fish Gut Alley, and riparian ecosystems, include, but are not limited to:

- ► Channelization and loss of flood capacity
- ► Loss of functional riparian habitat
- ▶ Decreased water quality from urban pollutants
- ► Loss of channel stability and increased bank erosion
- ► Impacts from off-leash dog activities including displacement of wildlife, damage to vegetation, and pollution of water.

McAdam and Rotary Parks' natural areas are extremely valuable for a wide range of ecological and social reasons. As upgrades are undertaken to improve habitat and fish-spawning opportunities within the parks, planning for a careful balance between ongoing ecosystem health and recreational activities will be a key consideration.



Signage on Cowichan Dike Trail

# 2.3.4 Climate Change

Climate change is a challenge being experienced by communities throughout the world – including the City of Duncan. The 2017 *Climate Projections for the Cowichan Valley Regional District* indicates the following climate projections by the 2050s:

- ► More hot days: More than double the number of summer days above 25°C, from an average of 16 days per year now to 39 days per year.
- ► **Hotter days:** An increase in the 1-in-20 hottest temperature from 33°C to 37°C.
- ► More rain overall: A modest 5% increase in annual precipitation, notably in the fall and winter.
- ► More rain at once: Increasingly extreme precipitation events, with about 30% more precipitation on very wet days and 65% more on extremely wet days.
- ► More summer drought: A decrease of rain in summer by about 17% and longer dry spells from 22 consecutive days now to 26 days. <sup>13</sup>

It should be anticipated that these changes will affect the natural systems of McAdam and Rotary Parks, including the river and stream corridors, vegetation, and animal life.

# Risks that may be anticipated with hotter weather and increasing summer drought include:

- ► Impacts to the soil's capacity to retain water, which could lead to erosion, flooding, and transportation of silt to water bodies.
- ► Compromised tree roots leading to increased risk of tree disease, mortality, and blow-down.
- ► Increasing potential for invasive species.
- ► Increasing fire risk.
- ▶ Deceasing stream flows and warmer water temperatures, and an earlier freshet affecting aquatic habitat and species.
- ► Increasing need for water conservation to protect water supplies, including reduced irrigation.

- ► Increased erosion from intensive rains, bringing silt and sediments into watercourses. These changes may affect salmon and other aquatic species activity in watercourses.
- ► Increased flood frequency and impacts, including potential impacts to the existing Cowichan Dike infrastructure.

McAdam and Rotary Parks have a role to play in helping the community mitigate and adapt to climate change. The parks support protection of fish-bearing watercourses and present opportunities for renewal of natural spaces to support biodiversity. All future planning for these parks should integrate climate considerations, including:

- ▶ Protection and enhancement of watercourses.
- ► Protection of existing native vegetation and incorporation of new vegetation to support renewal of forest areas.
- ► Selection of native plants that are adaptable to a range of conditions, including drought and flooding.
- ► Removal and ongoing management of invasive species.
- ► Selection of park amenities and management of park spaces to reduce water demands.
- ► Monitoring of environmental changes and associated adaptation.
- ► Educational opportunities.

Risks that may be anticipated with wetter weather and increased storm events in the fall, winter, and spring include:

Cowichan Valley Regional District. (2017). Climate Projections for the Cowichan Valley Regional District.

# 2.3.5 Population and Land Area

McAdam and Rotary Parks are well-used by both residents of the City of Duncan and in the neighbouring Cowichan Tribes and Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD), as well as beyond.

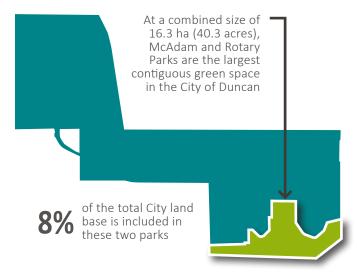
# **DUNCAN FAST FACTS:**

2.07 4,994 5
SQUARE KM POPULATION (2016) NEIGHBOURHOODS

# **CVRD FAST FACTS:**

3,475 83,739 9 ELECTORAL AREAS POPULATION (2016) 4 MUNICIPALITIES

Figure 2: Location of McAdam and Rotary Parks in Duncan



# 2.3.6 Land Use - Existing Key Policies

McAdam and Rotary Parks are designated in the City of *Duncan's Official Community Plan* (Bylaw no. 2030) as *Parks, Open Spaces, and Recreational Amenities*. The objectives of this designation are:

- ► To meet existing and future park needs and to encourage and facilitate active, healthy lifestyles.
- ► To provide diverse opportunities and access to a variety of recreational facilities, park lands, and open spaces for all ages, user groups, and abilities.
- ► To provide parks that are safe and balance high quality with ongoing maintenance costs.
- ► To provide public open spaces to minimize the impact of increased urban density.
- ► To provide multi-modal linkages between parks and open spaces.
- ► To work with neighboring jurisdictions to create linkages to regional amenities.
- ► To support the protection of environmentally and culturally significant areas.
- ► To create partnerships with residents, developers, and community organizations for acquiring lands, building facilities, and maintaining parks and publicly accessible open spaces.

McAdam and Rotary Parks contain significant environmental resources including forested areas and sensitive ecosystem zones along the riparian edge and in the floodplain. Relevant environmental objectives from the OCP include:

- ► To protect and enhance environmentally sensitive areas along the Cowichan River and in the floodplain.
- ► To identify, inventory, protect, and remediate natural habitat, vegetation, and watercourses for long-term benefit.
- ► To maintain / improve water and air quality.
- ► To maintain public access to natural areas and viewscapes.
- ► To develop guidelines for the stewardship of private and public lands.
- ► To minimize the risk of damage to property and life resulting from hazardous natural conditions.
- ► To partner with the community and support community involvement and awareness in environmental conservation and sustainability.

# 2.3.7 Zoning

McAdam and Rotary Parks are zoned:

**CP - Community Parks Zone**, which permits park and community uses, indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, institutional uses, and parking facilities.

Zones surrounding the park include:

- CS Community Service Zone, including the Vancouver Island Fish Hatchery and adjacent former elementary school. Allows for a variety of institutional and community-oriented uses.
- LDR Low Density Residential to the north permits single-unit dwellings, two-unit dwellings, and secondary suites.
- MDR Medium Density Residential to the northeast and northwest permits multi-unit row-house dwellings, and multi-unit dwellings up to 4 storeys.
- HCC Highway Corridor Commercial to the west permits a range of auto-oriented commercial uses.

Land use and zoning suggest that the surrounding Marchmont neighbourhood will continue to be predominantly residential, with potential for increased density through secondary suites and in medium density zones.

McAdam and Rotary Parks will continue to be important landmarks and green spaces for residents of Duncan and beyond, especially those residing in secondary suites or multiple-family homes with more limited access to personal green space.



Looking northwest over Rotary & McAdam Park and the Marchmont neighbourhood

Map 4: Zoning Context DUNCAN all access mall access ANCOUVER COWICHAN **ISLAND** TRIBES **TROUT HATCHERY** in Way COWICHAN TRIBES **MCADAM & ROTARY PARKS COWICHAN RIVER CVRD** 

### 2.3.8 Access

The main vehicle entrance to McAdam Park is at 820 Wharncliffe Road, where there is a paved parking lot with capacity for approximately 58 vehicles. Short-term street parking is allowed on neighbouring streets.

The main vehicle entrance to Rotary Park is on McKinstry Road where there is a parking lot with capacity for approximately 16 vehicles. Limited short-term street parking is allowed on neighbouring streets.

Trails connect the two parking areas. The multi-use Cowichan Dike Trail (part of the Somenos Trail Loop), runs through Rotary Park parallel to the river. Within the park, trails provide pedestrian and cycling access to the playing fields and other park amenities.

McAdam and Rotary Parks can be accessed by public transit via the Number 3 Bus Route, which stops on Wharncliffe Road at the north end of McAdam Park.

# 2.3.9 Community Resources

McAdam and Rotary Parks are close to a number of community resources, including the Vancouver Island Trout Hatchery, Cowichan Preschool, a former elementary school site, high schools, seniors living facilities, churches, and other community destinations. A number of sports groups use the parks on a regular basis.

With the number of organizations either using the parks or located in close proximity, there is potential for community partnerships. Such partnerships may offer opportunities for future land acquisition, environmental education and stewardship, increased programs and activities, and recreational facility upgrades.

Map 5: Access & Community Resources Map



# 2.4 EXISTING PARK FEATURES

McAdam and Rotary Parks have a number of existing amenities and features. *Map 6* below documents existing park features and descriptions on subsequent pages summarize observations about current conditions. The numbers on the map correspond with descriptions on the subsequent pages.



Map 6: Existing Park Elements





Cowichan River flowing in the spring



High water levels next to the Cowichan Dike in winter



River access point

# 1 Cowichan River Riparian Area

**About:** The Cowichan River and adjacent riparian areas are defining features of McAdam and Rotary Parks that provide important habitat for a range of fish, bird, and animal species.

The river and lands adjacent are culturally significant to the people of Cowichan Tribes for spiritual purposes, fishing, harvesting plants, medicines, and other resources and foods.

The river's edge is also a favourite recreational destination for swimming (people and dogs), fishing, and nature walks.

A nature trail parallels the river, with informal trails down to the water. Management of the floodplain and protection and enhancement of riparian areas are important.

- ► There are a number of existing informal access points to the river used for viewing, fishing, and seasonal swimming and dog access.
- ▶ The natural character of the riparian areas and Cowichan River is valued by the community as one of the few places in the city where people can be immersed in nature.
- Quality of the riparian ecosystems and habitat areas have been impacted by human use and dog activity, evidenced by erosion and invasive species.
- ▶ The floodplain zone between the Cowichan Dike and the river can flood during high water conditions.
- ▶ The ecological and cultural significance of the Cowichan River and riparian areas provide educational opportunities.
- Fish habitat and floodplain protection are foundations for planning for the parks.

# 2 3 Fish Gut Alley and Intermittent Watercourses

**About:** Fish Gut Alley is a side channel north off the Cowichan River that connects to Somenos Creek and then into the Cowichan River to the east. Forested areas along the banks are predominantly Black Cottonwood with a thick mixed understory (i.e., lower-level) of native and invasive species. The riparian area also has a number of intermittent watercourses that run when water levels are high. See *Section 2.3.3* for more details about Fish Gut Alley.

- ► Fish Gut Alley provides fish rearing habitat for juvenile salmon and trout, but habitat quality has deteriorated in recent years (see *Section 2.3.3*).
- ► The two existing bridges support pedestrian access and connection between the parks.
- ► The Cottonwood trees are nearing maturity, and there are invasive species including ivy, holly, and blackberries along the banks. These issues should be addressed to support ongoing future ecosystem health.
- ➤ Seasonal flooding at the southeast end of the channel affects the existing nature trail where it connects back to the Cowichan Dike Trail. Efforts to reinforce this area in the past have not been fully effective and the area continues to be subject to seasonal flooding.



Fish Gut Alley in summer



Fish Gut Alley near the bridge crossing in winter



Nature trail washout





Trail connection at the west end of Rotary Park to Island Hwy



Graffiti beneath the Silver Bridge

# 4 Cowichan River Bridge "Silver Bridge"

**About:** The Cowichan Dike Trail ends at Island Highway at the Cowichan River Bridge, locally known as the "Silver Bridge". A staircase provides access from the trail up to the Island Highway sidewalk.

- ► The closest pedestrian crossings of Island Highway are at Boys Rd intersection 280 m to the south, and at the Trunk Rd intersection, 500 m to the north. Previous studies and feedback suggest people often jaywalk across the highway between the two intersections to move between commercial and residential destinations located in City of Duncan. Cowichan Tribes, and CVRD jurisdictions.
- ► Safety concerns have been identified for the areas beneath the bridge as there is no lighting and there is graffiti and evidence of other undesirable activities.

# 5

# McAdam Field Area

**About:** The McAdam Field Area includes the grass football field and the surrounding amenities including a washroom / concession building, practice field, storage shed, announcer booth, Memorial Grove, and open space.

- ► McAdam Field is well used by a number of sports organizations including football, flag football, and soccer. The field is used on multiple evenings a week and on weekends throughout the year. Input suggests the field is in good condition, but there are limitations to seating in the surrounding areas.
- ► The main field area does not have lighting due to its proximity to nearby homes.
- ► The existing buildings, including the washroom / concession building, the announcer booth, and the storage shed are aging and warrant planning for future upgrades. Partnerships with community organizations could be an opportunity.
- ▶ The washrooms are not currently accessible.
- ▶ A practice field has been developed south of the building. The field is fenced with lighting. Due to lack of signage, anecdotal input suggests people are often unsure about the field's purpose.
- ► Memorial Grove is an area of memorial trees on the south side of the field that has mature tree canopy and lawn in a shady, inviting environment.
- ▶ While the McAdam Field area is very busy during sports practices and games, it is typically minimally used during other times. Opportunities may exist to encourage field use for other activities or recreational uses in order to bring more activity during a broader range of times (during the day, on weekdays, and weekend evenings).



Football game on McAdam Field



Plaza and picnic table near the concession building



Pathway to the concession building





Seating at Rotary Field



Rotary Field

# 6 Rotary Field Area

**About:** Rotary Field was upgraded in 2014, including new fencing, irrigation, turf improvements, bleachers, lighting, and water fountains. The field is booked for soccer practices and games. Open areas with mature Black Cottonwood trees exist to the east and west of the field, while the field is bordered by the Cowichan Dike to the south and Fish Gut Alley to the north.

- ► The natural grass field and fenced areas are in good condition.
- ► Aside from the team bleachers, there is minimal seating for the area.
- ► The lighting extends hours of field use. The field location within the treed area minimizes light trespass to nearby residential properties.
- ▶ Anecdotal input suggests that the covered bleachers are, at times, used for sleeping and other unsanctioned activities, in part due to limited passive surveillance in the area.
- ► Field users suggested that more lighting on the trails between the field and parking areas would be desirable as navigation to and from the field can be difficult at night.
- ▶ Opportunities may exist to increase seating, gathering space, or other activities and amenities around the field perimeter to increase activity in the area.
- ► Input suggests the existing fencing works well to manage potential conflicts between field uses and off-leash dog areas.

# 7 Tennis Court Area

**About:** The tennis court area is located directly adjacent to the parking area off Al Wilson Grove and has one fenced outdoor tennis court with asphalt surfacing. There are no ancillary amenities such as lighting, seating, or water fountains. Trails connect the tennis court area to the Cowichan Dike Trail to the south and Rotary Field to the east. Grassy areas with mature Black Cottonwood define the east edge of the area.

- ► A second tennis court was previously located in the area; however, it was removed due to poor condition and limited use.
- ► Anecdotal input suggests the remaining tennis court is not frequently used, in part due to its poor condition, lack of lighting, and limited supporting amenities.
- ► The grassy area surrounding the existing court is level and open.
- ► A large stand of Black Cottonwood trees is to the east of the tennis courts. Tree health has been identified as a potential concern as some trees reach maturity.



Open grass area near the tennis court



Existing tennis court





Cowichan Dike Trail (left) and pathway connection to Rotary Field area (right)



Footbridge along the river trail route



Informal pathway to the Cowichan River

# 8 9 Cowichan Dike Trail & Park Trails

**About:** Cowichan Dike Trail connects through Rotary Park linking into the larger Somenos Trail Loop. The Cowichan Dike Trail, popular for running, walking, rolling, and dog-walking, provides a 3.5 m wide accessible route through the park. Formal and informal park trails link into this spine. See *Map 6* for trail locations.

# **Key Observations:**

- ► The Cowichan Dike Trail provides important regional connectivity, integrated with engineered flood protection for the City of Duncan.
- ► There are two accessible connections and two stairway connections from the park to the Cowichan Dike Trail one on each end of Rotary Field.
- ► Trail connections from on the south side of the Cowichan Dike Trail which connect to the nature trail along the Cowichan River are steep and have accessibility limitations.
- ► The nature trail along the Cowichan River is well-used when water levels are low. However, intermittent flooding impacts the existing footbridge and the eastern connection to the Cowichan Dike Trail.
- ► Small informal trails lead from the nature trail to the Cowichan River in several locations. These informal connections are not accessible and have contributed to shoreline erosion in some locations.
- ► Trail connections are limited around McAdam Field, with linkages around the washroom / concession building and bridges across Fish Gut Alley to Rotary Park.
- ➤ Trail lighting is limited to park entries and Rotary Field when games are occurring. Public input suggested additional trail lighting may warrant consideration.

# 11) Off-Leash Dog Area

**About:** Currently most of McAdam and Rotary Parks are designated as off-leash dog areas, excluding the sports fields and other active use zones.

- ► The off-leash areas are well used throughout the year and at all times of day during daylight hours. This function provides eyes on the park through a variety of seasons.
- ► Most people participating in off-leash dog walking noted that trail loops and access to the river for swimming were key attractions.
- ▶ While the majority of input about the off-leash areas is positive, some concerns have been expressed about negative interactions with dogs, impacts to natural areas, or issues concerning dog waste.
- ► Lack of lighting typically limits use of the off-leash dog area to daylight hours.
- ▶ Bylaw signage describes the rules and regulations of the off-leash area, but there is limited active enforcement of the rules.
- ▶ Off-leash areas can impact ecosystem health in the riparian and floodplain areas including presence of dog feces which contributes to nutrient loading in watercourses, damage to vegetation, shoreline erosion and sedimentation, and wildlife impacts.
- ► Currently there are no designated dog river access areas. Some concerns have been raised about conflicts between dogs and swimmers, particularly with respect to children.



Off-leash dog area near the existing tennis courts



Dog walking on Cowichan Dike Trail





Cowichan Preschool

# 12 Cowichan Preschool

**About:** Established in 1977, the Cowichan Preschool offers learning programs to preschool-aged children. Sessions currently run weekdays between 9 am and noon.

### **Observations:**

- ► The park setting provides opportunities to extend learning and play beyond the school and into the surrounding park and natural environment.
- ► Recently, a high fence was installed around the preschool's outdoor play area due to issues with drug paraphernalia in the yard.



Educational signage station along the Cowichan Dike Trail



Regulatory signage

# 13) Signage

**About:** Three types of signs exist in the parks: regulatory, directional, and interpretive. The existing interpretive signs provide information about environmental ecosystems, wildlife, the Cowichan River, and more. See *Map 6* for locations. In addition, park signs indicate arrival to the parks, provide information about forest areas, and outline regulatory information.

- ▶ Improved interpretive signage could be considered along Fish Gut Alley and the Cowichan River to provide more details about natural processes, riparian ecosystems, and salmon.
- ► There are no wayfinding or maps in the parks to help orient people.
- ► There is some regulatory signage related to offleash dogs, seasonal use areas, restoration areas, and parking.
- ► Some signs have been subject to vandalism which contributes to negative perceptions.

# 14 Parking Areas

**About:** There are paved parking areas at the Wharncliffe Rd entrance to McAdam Park and at the Al Wilson Grove entrance to Rotary Park. On-street parallel parking is available along Wharncliffe Rd and Beech Ave, as well as limited parking on McKinstry Rd.

Table 1: Existing Parking in McAdam & Rotary Parks

	STANDARD STALLS	ACCESSIBLE STALLS	TOTAL STALLS
MCADAM	56	2	58
ROTARY	15	1	16
COMBINED	71	3	74

- ▶ The McAdam Park lot can quickly fill up during sports games and tournaments. Street parking on surrounding neighbourhood streets accommodates overflow. Outside of sport events, this lot appears to only be minimally used, with the exception of drop-off / pick-up at the Cowichan Preschool.
- ► There is no sidewalk on Wharncliffe Rd or Beech Ave to provide a defined path of travel from street parking into the park.
- ► The Rotary Park parking area can reach capacity at times on weekends when it is well-used by people using the park's trail system.
- ▶ While speed limits on Wharncliffe Rd and McKinstry Rd are posted at 30 km/hr, anecdotal input from neighbours suggest these limits are often exceeded.
- ▶ Improved pedestrian connections to street parking and between parking areas, and improved directional signs, could support better utilization of the parking areas available.
- ► There is one bike rack in the parks at the McAdam Field Park Building. There are no bike parking facilities along the Cowichan Dike Trail.



Parking lot at McAdam Field



Parking lot at Rotary Park



# 2.5 KEY PARK CHALLENGES

During the process, participants identified a number of challenges to be considered:

### Social Issues

Significant concerns exist about illegal activities in and around the parks including camping, vandalism, littering, and drug use. While social issues are a larger challenge affecting communities across the region and beyond, symptoms often manifest in public park spaces. For example, the playground at the daycare was fenced due to the presence of needles. Input suggests that these and other visible impacts of social challenges are apparent in McAdam and Rotary Parks, which affects visitors' perceptions about safety and desire to use the parks.

## **Environmental Health**

McAdam and Rotary Parks contain natural areas that are performing important ecosystem services. Natural environments in urban areas are vulnerable to human impacts, such as littering, erosion, off-leash dog activity, general ecosystem degradation, deforestation, contamination, and more. Over time, these impacts can compromise the health of streams, rivers, and vegetation.

The mature tree canopy within the parks has ecological value and beauty, and plays an important role in water absorption, providing pollinator habitat, and increasing soil stability. However, the aging trees also present risks related to limb breakage that can affect user safety and forest health. Ongoing management and renewal can help maintain healthy ecosystems.

# Floodplain

A large part of the parks sit within the floodplain of the Cowichan River. While the Cowichan Dike protects park areas to the north, areas to the south are subject to seasonal flooding. Recent major flood events have impacted park areas beyond the dike and are likely to do so again in the future. The City has a Floodplain Management Bylaw and Hazard Lands Development Permit Area guidelines. The CVRD coordinates regional floodplain management with the City, Municipality of North Cowichan, Cowichan Tribes, and the Province. Decisions related to flood management are key considerations for the future of the parks and should take into account this Master Plan and community recreation needs.

## Recreation Limitations

While the parks function well for sports field users and people who enjoy the trails and off-leash dog area, some suggest that a broader range of amenities for all ages – including children and youth – are desired. Field users noted that having opportunities for children to play when visiting for a sporting event would be a benefit. Public input showed varied opinions about changes – many users would prefer no changes while others would like to see select improvements to broaden the parks' appeal to more users. Finding a balance will be important to serve all of Duncan's residents.

Graffiti on adjacent walls.



Erosion along the river banks.



Natural seasonal flooding.



#### **Aging Facilities**

Upgrades to Rotary Field occurred in 2014, including new fencing, irrigation, turf improvements, bleachers, lighting, and water fountains. McAdam Field is currently in good condition. However, other amenities within the parks, notably the washroom / concession building and tennis court are aging, making planning for renewal a priority. Input suggests that the deteriorated condition of the tennis court has led to low use and there are accessibility limitations with the existing washrooms.

#### Parking & Access

The existing parking lots appear to comfortably accommodate regular park use. During key activity times, notably during sporting events or tournaments, parking lots can exceed capacity, leading to users parking on adjacent residential streets. Generally input didn't note significant concerns about existing uses, but did identify that additional activities may put pressure on the existing parking capacity. Input also identified concerns about traffic speeds around the park, often exceeding the 30 km posted speed limits.

#### **Underutilization**

The typical nature of field spaces is very high utilization during organized sports (typically outside school / working hours); and very limited utilization during other times. While this cycle is common, opportunities to increase activity options and multi-use spaces that encourage a greater diversity of uses at all times can help capitalize on existing resources, provide sustainable uses of park assets, and help increase positive activity and surveillance to counter negative behaviours that occur when passive surveillance is low.

Another key limitation is hours of use and seasonal use in the parks. Most park users do not feel safe accessing the parks after daylight hours due to darkness and a related rise in negative activities. Participants provided mixed input on lighting — with some desire to be able to use more parts of the park into the evening hours; while others expressing concerns this could further contribute to negative behaviours.

#### Connectivity

While McAdam and Rotary Parks are well connected on the Somenos Trail Loop, the park entrances are not well marked, there is a lack of existing bicycle infrastructure, and community input has identified concerns about the safety and accessibility of existing connections, particularly at the Trans Canada Highway. In addition, the road network around the park is confusing to people unfamiliar with the area.

Aging tennis court.



Parking lot during game day at McAdam Park.



McAdam Park quiet outside game time.





#### 2.6 PARK USERS & ACTIVITIES

McAdam and Rotary Parks' natural beauty, location along the Cowichan River, and existing recreational amenities make it a year-round destination. The initial public questionnaire did not indicate significant differences between summer and winter use, although comments suggested some use has dropped due to concerns about safety.

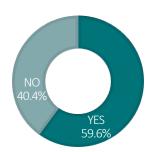
Questionnaire respondents reported participating in the following activities most frequently at the parks:



- **2.** Dog Walking (52%)
- 3. Nature Appreciation / Bird Watching (42%)
- **4.** Playing Football (27%)
- **5.** Bicycling (24%)
- **6.** Spectating Field Sports (23%)
- **7.** Picnicking (12%)
- **8.** Playing Other Field Sports (7%)
- **9.** Swimming (6%)
- 10. Playing Tennis (5%)
- Playing Soccer (4%)

Do participants visit the parks with their dogs?

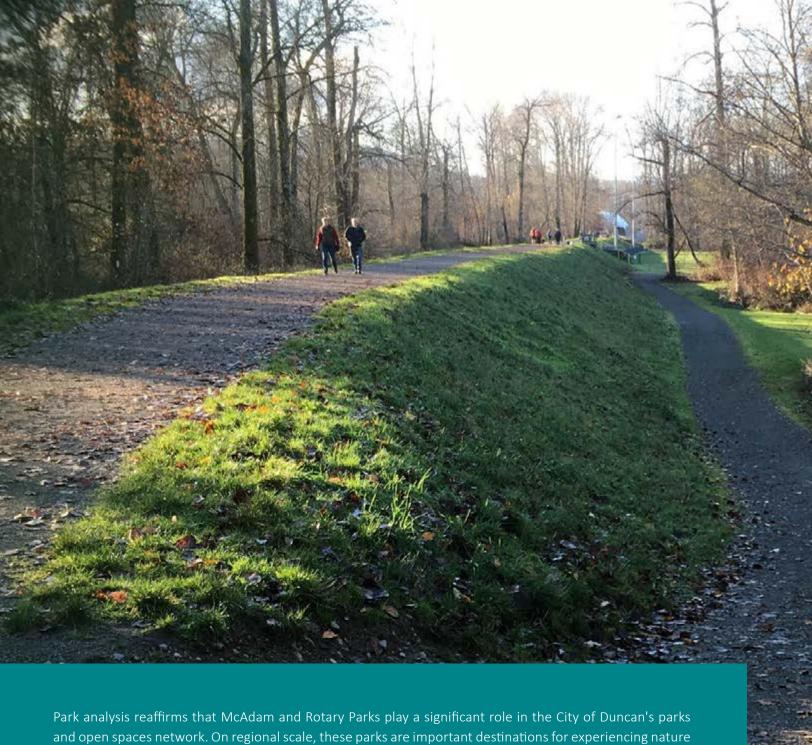
- ► The majority of respondents (59.6%) indicated that they do currently visit the parks with their dog.
- Public input indicated some concerns about interactions between dogs and other park users.



Questionnaire respondents were also asked to identify if anything limits their use of McAdam and Rotary Parks. The following responses were provided most frequently.

- Concerns About Illegal Activities (Camping, Vandalism, Drug Use) (67%)
- 2. Safety Concerns (42%)
- **3.** Little or Nothing Limits Use (23%)
- **4.** Seasonal Washroom Access (15%)
- **5.** Lack of Park Facilities that Suit People's Needs (14%)
- **6.** Lack of Recreational Programs / Outdoor Education Opportunities (7%)
- 7. Off-leash Dogs / Too Many Dogs (6%)
- **8.** Lack of Information About the Park (4%)
- **9.** Lack of Parking (4%)
- 10. Lack of Playground (2%)





Park analysis reaffirms that McAdam and Rotary Parks play a significant role in the City of Duncan's parks and open spaces network. On regional scale, these parks are important destinations for experiencing nature and accessing the Cowichan River, as well as for sport and leisure. Within the City and the Marchmont neighbourhood, they are the only large-scale City parks east of the Trans-Canada Highway. Given that there are limited other options for outdoor recreation within a 10-15 minute walk of the parks, these parks will continue to play many roles in serving residents from both near and far. A careful balance between preserving the parks' cherished wild places while providing recreation opportunities for residents of all ages will need to be pursued.



## 3 | WHAT WE HEARD

#### 3.1 PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT

Engagement during the first phase was focused on understanding participants' perceptions of McAdam and Rotary Parks – what they love, what concerns them, and what their hopes are for the future. A key component of this phase was building awareness and encouraging participation from a wide range of community members.

#### 3.1.1 Engagement Activities

The following activities were undertaken during the Phase 1 engagement.

ACTIVITY	DATES	LOCATION	DETAILS
DUNCAN FARMERS MARKET BOOTH	<ul> <li>Saturday, May 26 @ 9:00 am- 2:00 pm</li> <li>Saturday, June 2 @ 9:00 am- 2:00 pm</li> </ul>	► Duncan Farmers Market (near City Hall)	City of Duncan staff had a booth at the Farmers Market to raise awareness about the Master Plan and initiate discussions with community members. The booth included a large map to record insights about the parks. Participants were informed about the project website and opportunities to participate in the process.
EVENTS IN THE PARK	<ul> <li>► Thursday, June 14 @ 5:30 pm-7:30 pm</li> <li>► Friday June 15 @ 8:00 am-10:30 am</li> <li>► Saturday June 16 @ 9:00 am-11:30 am</li> </ul>	► Various Locations in McAdam and Rotary Parks	The project team held Pizza in the Park, Coffee Conversations, and a Saturday Social within the parks to gather ideas, input, and feedback from park users about the parks today and in the future. Community members were encouraged to record their ideas on interactive boards and to complete an ideas questionnaire.
IDEAS QUESTIONNAIRE	► Wednesday, May 30 through Tuesday, June 19	► Online ► Paper	The ideas questionnaire was focused on gathering early ideas and insights about the park. This input was important to understanding the range of ideas and opinions that exist for the park.



#### 3.1.2 Feedback Summary

The following key themes were recorded in the Phase 1 Engagement. Refer to the **Phase 1 Community Input Summary (May - June, 2018)** for details.



#### People love...

- Riparian areas along the Cowichan River
- Walking and running on the trails
- Mature trees and forested areas
- Bringing their dogs to the park
- Playing football and other sports



### People are concerned about...

- Illegal activities within the park (camping, drug use)
- Safety, especially at night
- Off-leash dog interactions
- Garbage and litter
- Deteriorating facilities
- Negative public perceptions about the park



### People have ideas about...

- Crime prevention and monitoring
- Upgraded facilities
- Improved river access
- Fun and engaging play areas
- Accessibility to all members of the community
- Community events

#### **KEY THEMES:**



**SAFETY:** Park improvements should be carefully planned and designed to address public safety, both during the day and at night. Concerns exist about illegal activities, the presence of off-leash dogs, and access to the Cowichan River.



**ENVIRONMENT:** The parks' riparian and forested areas are highly valued environmental assets. Enhancing existing ecological character and protecting natural areas could generate important environmental benefits and encourage stewardship and educational opportunities.



**COMMUNITY SPIRIT:** The parks could be a destination for all of Duncan's residents to gather at any time of day and throughout all seasons. Park improvements should target diverse user groups and ensure all residents feel welcome.



**CONNECTIVITY:** McAdam and Rotary Parks are uniquely situated on Duncan's valued Somenos Trail Loop. Improved trail connectivity for walkers, runners, and rollers warrants consideration.



**RECREATION:** Existing park facilities have served the community well but an upgrade could attract a variety of visitors and improve public perception of the park. Amenity upgrades that offer a wider range of recreational activities for all ages warrant consideration. Planning should consider relationships between different activities so that varied recreational opportunities can occur simultaneously.

#### 3.2 PHASE 2 ENGAGEMENT

Phase 2 engagement involved review of the draft Vision and Guiding Principles and the consideration of ideas to bring these to life. The goal of this phase was to explore as broad a range of ideas as possible, evaluating and identifying those that could warrant development in the draft plan and to eliminate ideas that may not be suitable for the parks.

#### 3.2.1 Engagement Activities

The following activities were undertaken during the Phase 2 engagement.

ACTIVITY	DATES	LOCATION	DETAILS
COFFEE CONVERSATIONS EVENT	► Tuesday, Nov. 27 @ 8:00 am - 11:00 am	► McAdam Field House	The project team spent the morning at the McAdam Park Field House gathering feedback from park users on a range of ideas and possible amenity additions for the parks. Community members were encouraged to record their input on interactive boards and complete a feedback questionnaire.
HANGING AT THE HATCHERY EVENT	► Tuesday, Nov. 27 @ 4:30 pm - 8:00 pm	► Vancouver Island Trout Hatchery	The project team spent the evening at the Vancouver Island Trout Hatchery to support discussions on preliminary ideas. Community members were encouraged to record their input on interactive boards and complete a feedback questionnaire.
FEEDBACK QUESTIONNAIRE	► Tuesday, Nov. 27 through Monday, Dec. 17	➤ Online ➤ Paper	The questionnaire was focused on gathering feedback draft directions. This individual input was important to understand the range of opinions and preferences so that the best ideas were carried forward into the Draft Master Plan.
ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL STAKEHOLDERS FIELD VISIT AND ENGAGEMENT	► Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019	► McAdam and Rotary Parks	City staff met with local environmental professionals, stakeholders, and experts. Participants included members of Cowichan Tribes, environmental organizations, and provincial and federal government agencies. The goal was to discuss past and present conditions of riparian areas within the parks and identify strategies for future restoration, maintenance, and management.
YOUTH INPUT	► Tuesday, March 5 through Friday March 15, 2019	➤ Online ➤ In person @ high school	City staff visited Cowichan Secondary School to speak with students about the Master Plan process, gather ideas and input, and brainstorm possible improvements for the future. Students were encouraged to record their ideas on interactive boards and complete a questionnaire.



#### 3.2.2 Feedback Summary

Phase 2 was an important and challenging step in the Master Plan process. During Phase 1, a very broad set of ideas were identified for consideration. Phase 2 was an opportunity to test those ideas. While some ideas were well supported, others were not. Key concerns emerged around the protection and value of the natural setting and the preservation of existing uses like the off-leash dog trails. Participants provided valuable insights into what is important to keep, ideas that should be explored further, and ideas that should be left behind because they do not fit the vision for this unique place.

Refer to the Phase 2 Community Input Summary (November 2018 - March, 2019) for details.



## PARTICIPANTS GENERALLY SUPPORTED:

- Protection and restoration of natural areas
- Consideration for amenity additions in McAdam Park and selective upgrades to Rotary Park
- Improvements to the trail network
- Additional interpretive and wayfinding signage
- More picnic and seating areas
- Potential park expansion, depending on use and cost



# PARTICIPANTS IDENTIFIED CONCERNS ABOUT:

- Reduction of off-leash dog trails
- Over programming or urbanization of Rotary Park
- Impacts to critical habitat areas, specifically within riparian zones
- Illegal activities within the park (camping, drug use)
- Safety, especially at night
- Impacts to taxes

#### **KEYTHEMES:**



**SAFETY AND SOCIAL ISSUES:** Significant concerns were identified about illegal activities within the parks (vandalism, drug use, camping, etc.) Input suggests that these visible social challenges contribute to negative public perceptions about the parks and potentially impact use, especially in the evenings.



**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES:** The parks' riparian and forested areas are highly valued environmental assets; however, invasive species, erosion, human and dog impacts, and succession challenges are issues. Concerns exist about amenity upgrades impacting the parks' natural character and affecting critical habitat areas, especially within the floodplain. Careful management and planning should support the parks' ecological systems now and into the future.



**RECREATIONAL AMENITIES:** Public input indicates varied opinions about changes within the parks. Many users value the parks as they are, while others support upgrades to existing facilities, and selective improvements to support a broader range of park uses, especially in McAdam Park. Input suggests a desire to maintain open off-leash dog areas within the park, while some users note concerns about off-leash dog interactions.



**TRAILS AND ACCESS:** McAdam and Rotary Parks are well connected on the Somenos Trail Loop, and many people value the existing park trails. However, existing trail entrances are not well-marked, some conflicts were identified, and there is potential to improve signage and wayfinding. Support exists for trail upgrades to increase accessibility for users with mobility challenges and to support more use of select areas throughout the seasons and at all times of day.

#### 3.3 PHASE 3 ENGAGEMENT

Phase 3 engagement was focused on review and refinement of the draft plan and recommendations for the parks. The goal was to identify revisions to be integrated in the final plan.

#### 3.3.1 Engagement Activities

The following activities were undertaken during Phase 3 engagement.

ACTIVITY	DATES	LOCATION	DETAILS
CONVERSATIONS IN MCADAM PARK	► Tuesday, Sept. 22 @ 3:00 pm- 6:00 pm	► McAdam Park Field House area	The project team spent the afternoon in McAdam Park gathering feedback from park users on the draft master plan recommendations. Community members of all ages were encouraged to engage in socially-distanced conversation, record their input on interactive boards, and complete a feedback questionnaire.
CONVERSATIONS IN ROTARY PARK	► Tuesday, Sept. 29 @ 10:00 am- 1:00 pm	► Rotary Park Tennis Courts	The project team spent the morning in Rotary Park gathering feedback from park visitors on the draft master plan recommendations. Community members of all ages were encouraged to engage in socially-distanced conversation, record their input on interactive boards, and complete a feedback questionnaire.
FEEDBACK FORM	► Wednesday, Sept. 16 through Monday, Oct. 5	► Online ► Paper	The feedback form was focused on gathering comments on the draft master plan recommendations. This individual input was used to confirm, refine, and finalize planning directions for the parks.
ORGANIZATION REFERRALS	► Fall / Winter 2020	► Email	The draft plan was referred to organizations including Cowichan Tribes, CVRD, environmental organizations, and other user groups for their comments, questions, and suggested refinements.
DUNCAN CITY STAFF REFERRALS	► Spring 2021	<ul><li>► Email</li><li>► Meetings</li></ul>	The draft plan was referred to internal City of Duncan staff including Bylaws, Planning, and Engineering for their comments, questions, and suggested refinements.



#### 3.3.2 Feedback Summary

Phase 3 was an opportunity to confirm with the community and organizations that the draft plan reflects their input to the process to date. Generally, the draft plan was positively received by participants with key themes reiterated around safety and natural area protection. Minor updates to the plan were completed to address comments.

Refer to the Phase 3 Community Input Summary (Fall 2020) for details.

# PARTICIPANTS GENERALLY SUPPORTED:

- Restoring, protecting, and enhancing Fish Gut Alley and the natural areas along the Cowichan River
- Managing and growing the tree canopy
- Improving access to the river including separate areas for dogs and people
- Upgrading park trails and circulation to support people with all levels of mobility
- Integrating a new play area in McAdam Park
- Upgrading the sports field and supporting amenities in McAdam Park
- Increasing park maintenance and surveillance



# PARTICIPANTS IDENTIFIED CONCERNS ABOUT:

- The presence of illegal activities throughout both McAdam and Rotary Parks (camping, vandalism, evidence of drug use)
- The presence and management of invasive plant species in natural areas
- Parking capacity related to park upgrades, specifically during events and on game days (post COVID)
- Conflicts between off-leash dogs and other park users
- Cost of park upgrades including potential tax implications



# PARTICIPANTS HAD MIXED OPINIONS ABOUT:

- The amount of park space allocated for offleash dogs in Rotary Park
  - ► Many were supportive of defining boundaries between off-leash and on-leash zones (as shown in the draft plan)
  - ► Some respondents were satisfied with the proposed strategy for off-leash areas
  - Some participants expressed concern at the proposed amount of trail network allocated for off-leash dogs

#### **KEY THEMES:**



Participants strongly supported recommendations related to the environment, and continued to express concerns about the ecological health of the riparian and habitat areas as well as the impact of potential park upgrades on ecologically sensitive areas



Participants continue to be concerned about park safety including the presence of illegal activity, and the provision of safe trails for walkers of all ages and abilities, cyclists, and both off-leash and on-leash dogs



## 4 | VISION & FRAMEWORK

#### 4.1 VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The McAdam and Rotary Parks Vision and Guiding Principles were generated based on background research and public input. They build on McAdam and Rotary Parks' existing strengths and values, while aiming to envision what the parks might become.

#### **4.1.1** Vision

A Vision statement describes a long-term future for McAdam and Rotary Parks. Aspirational in nature, it helps to guide decisions about future park changes and development.

Located on the Cowichan River, McAdam and Rotary Parks are Duncan's riverfront parks, offering something for everyone to enjoy. They continue to be a natural respite within the city, providing protected and enhanced habitat areas for salmon and a range of plant and animal species. With safe, accessible trails for runners, walkers, cyclists, and dog-walkers; inviting views of the river; family-friendly amenities; and active sports fields, the parks are year-round destinations for residents and visitors alike.













#### 4.1.2 Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles support realization of the Vision by providing specific guidance for future projects within McAdam and Rotary Parks. These principles act as a "checklist" for proposed park improvements; if a potential project meets these principles it will support the spirit and focus of the Master Plan.



#### PROTECT AND RESTORE NATURAL AREAS AND RIPARIAN ECOSYSTEMS

- ▶ Protect riparian areas and enhance the riparian buffer to support a healthy Cowichan River
- ▶ Restore and enhance the parks' existing natural features
- ► Thoughtfully consider placement of infrastructure and amenities in relation to sensitive ecosystem areas, including siting of new pathways and viewpoints
- ▶ Integrate management strategies to support ongoing ecosystem health
- ► Foster environmental stewardship and work with volunteers and interest groups to undertake projects to support environmental quality
- ► Celebrate the parks' valued natural character
- ► Educate park users about ecosystem health and how they can support protection and enhancement



#### **IMPROVE SAFETY**

- ► Make the park inviting throughout all seasons and times of day through strategic lighting, enhanced visibility, and activity that encourages eyes on the park
- ► Provide clear sight lines along pathways
- ► Integrate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, especially at key park destinations
- ► Seek opportunities to increase positive activity through increased use and activities to counteract negative behaviors
- ► Support community strategies and opportunities to address issues of homelessness
- ► Strategically phase plan implementation based on assessment of safety conditions within the park



#### **INCREASE TRAILS AND ACCESSIBILITY**

- ► Create a continuous pathway loop for walkers, runners, cyclists, and users with mobility limitations
- ▶ Upgrade pathway connections to the Cowichan Dike Trail for users of all ages and abilities
- ► Create walking and cycling routes that feel safe and inviting
- ▶ Link beyond the parks' boundaries to destinations in surrounding neighborhoods
- ► Create a wayfinding and signage system that is fun, clear, and engaging
- ► Care for the spaces between destinations, making the entire park a cohesive and beautiful experience
- ► Address barriers and issue areas



#### **UPGRADE AND INTEGRATE RECREATIONAL AMENITIES**

- ► Offer recreational opportunities for all ages
- ▶ Prioritize amenities that attract visitors throughout the year
- ▶ Provide flexible, multi-use spaces that encourage a wide range of uses
- ► Explore how use of field spaces could be maximized
- ▶ Partner with community organizations to develop projects that fit current and future community needs
- ▶ Consider opportunities for future park expansion that supports the Vision for these parks



#### 4.2 MASTER PLAN ZONES

The organizing framework for the McAdam and Rotary Parks Master Plan is directly related to existing ecological areas, recreational uses, and infrastructure. Major features, including the Cowichan River and associated riparian areas, Cowichan Dike Trail, Fish Gut Alley, and recreation amenities, create three distinct park zones shown in *Map 7*.

- U) Upland Zone
- Lowland Zone
- R Riparian and Natural Areas Zone

Each zone has a unique form, character, and function. A visual character range is provided in *Figure 3* illustrating the transition from an active, neighbourhood character in the Upland Zone to the wild character of the Riparian and Natural Areas Zone. Issues, opportunities, and objectives for each zone are described on subsequent pages.



Map 7: Park Zones

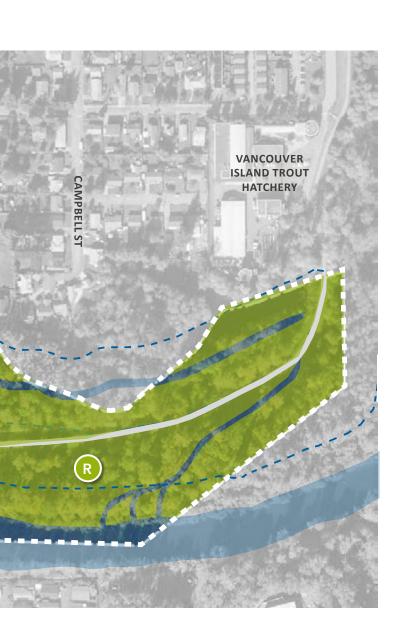




Figure 3: Park Zones Character Spectrum



#### 4.2.1 UPLAND ZONE

The Upland Zone is the north part of McAdam Park, from Wharncliffe Road to the forest edge south of McAdam Field, and encompasses the parking lot, McAdam Field, the park building, practice field, Memorial Grove, parking lot, and surrounding open spaces. The Upload Zone is primarily manicured landscape, park, and field spaces.



Map 8: Upland Zone

#### **ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

- ► McAdam Field and the parking lot are busy during practices and games, but often empty when not being used for sports. There are few other amenities that encourage recreation outside of sporting events or practices.
- ► Grass fields are well maintained and provide a high quality surface for sport or other activities.
- ▶ Limited spectator seating or picnic opportunities.
- ► Lack of clarity about the function of the practice field.
- ► Existing park building and accessory structures have limited accessibility and are aging.
- ► Few supporting park amenities such as welcome and wayfinding signage, bike racks, drinking fountains, etc.
- ► Safety concerns related to illicit actives (i.e., drug use).
- ▶ Limited lighting at the field and park building area.
- ► Area is a designated off-leash (with the exception of the field), though there is often uncertainty about off-leash uses.
- Open lawn spaces south of McAdam Field, at the Memorial Grove and west of the parking lot, are not well used.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- Increase activity in the area beyond only during sporting events.
- ► Create an enhanced and welcoming park building that better facilitates current and future community needs, including full accessibility.
- ► Add seating diversity to support spectating sports, small gatherings and community events, as well as quieter places for relaxation and reflection.
- ► Increase and upgrade park amenities including welcome, wayfinding, interpretive and regulatory signage, bike racks, drinking fountains, and waste receptacles.
- Maintain mature trees and continue to expand the urban tree canopy.

The Upland Zone is envisioned to be playful, energetic, and more urban than the other zones, while complementing the parks' natural areas. Building on existing field facilities, this zone will be a place for play, wellness, and community gathering. With upgraded facilities, new seating areas, and park amenities including an improved park building, children's play area, and pollinator gardens, as well new wayfinding signs and trail connections, the Upland Zone will invite visitors of all ages to recreate throughout the seasons. From football and parkour to yoga and gardening, or a quiet walk on the trails, there will be something for all to enjoy.















#### 4.2.2 LOWLAND ZONE

The Lowland Zone in Rotary Park, north of the Dike Trail and south of Fish Gut Alley, encompasses the McKinstry Road park entrance, existing tennis court, Rotary Field, and adjacent open spaces. Although close to Rotary Park's natural areas, the ecology of the Lowland Zone is different. Open spaces are characterized by lawn areas, mature Cottonwood trees, and a mix of native and invasive lower-level plants.



Map 9: Lowland Zone

#### **ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

- ► McKinstry Road parking lot is well-used and more park use could increase parking demand. Improved wayfinding and trails to the Wharncliffe Road parking lot could help alleviate parking pressures.
- ► The existing tennis court is in poor condition, potentially contributing to low usage.
- ► Rotary Field, while busy during practices and games, is often empty when not in use for sports.
- ► No washroom facilities in Rotary Park and a lack of signage to direct users to the McAdam Park washrooms.
- ► Few spectator seating, picnic areas, or benches close to Rotary Field or the Cowichan Dike Trail.
- ► Safety concerns related to illicit activities (e.g., drug use, illegal camping) in the area.
- ► Rotary Field is well-lit, but lighting on trail connections to the field is poor.
- ▶ Off-leash dog areas are well-used, bringing visitors to the park and providing positive social interactions; however, some off-leash activities conflict with environmental objectives.
- ► Mature Cottonwood trees are reaching their lifespan and may need to be evaluated for health and planning for replacement.
- ► Invasive plants including blackberries, holly, and ivy are throughout the area.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- ► Manage existing parking to limit demand for increased impervious surfaces in the parks.
- ► Enhance welcome, wayfinding, and regulatory signage at the park entry and along trails.
- ▶ Upgrade sport and field amenities to encourage more use and enjoyment.
- ► Increase opportunities for picnicking and resting along trails or spectating sporting activities.
- ► Improve visibility in the evenings.
- ► Retain off-leash dog areas with enhancements to provide visual and physical separation between fields, seating areas, and restored natural areas, with the objective of providing positive experiences for all.
- ► Remove invasive plants and replace with native vegetation that attracts pollinators.

Image: Picnic Shelters, Local Practice

Architecture

The Lowland Zone will be a balance between the more active Upland Zone and McAdam and Rotary Parks' natural areas. Improvements in and around Rotary Field and the tennis court will encourage more activity throughout the day and seasons. Picnic areas will offer places for teams and families to gather. Open off-leash dog areas will continue to provide spaces for dogs and humans to run and play, with improved signage and features that help protect sensitive areas and support shared use. Selective lighting will allow trails to be enjoyed in the evenings. The Lowland Zone will be place for both active living and passive relaxation and gathering.

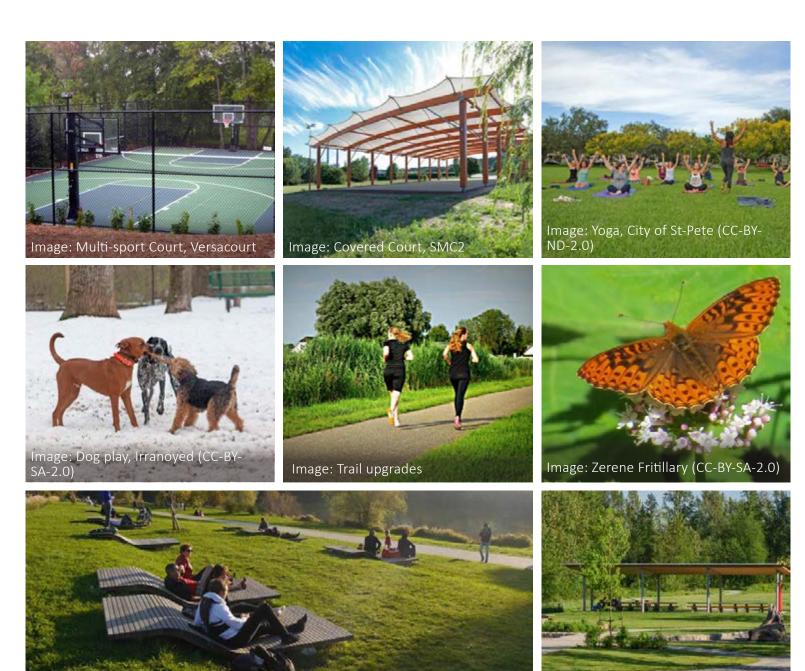


Image: Unique seating options, Banks of the Seine, In Situ

#### 4.2.3 RIPARIAN AND NATURAL AREAS ZONE

The Riparian and Natural Areas Zone is defined by key ecological features including Fish Gut Alley, the Cowichan River, and associated riparian areas. These areas provide important natural habitat and ecosystem services, along with places for people to enjoy quiet reflection and respite from the urban environment. They require careful management for ongoing health. For more detailed information about the ecology of the riparian and natural areas, refer to Section 2.3.3.



Map 10: Riparian and Natural Areas Zone

#### **ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

- ► Fish Gut Alley historically has provided year-round rearing and spawning habitat for Chum and Coho Salmon, but productivity has diminished in recent years. The City is working with a team of biologists, DFO, and Cowichan Tribes on a restoration project to improve spawning conditions for Coho and Chum Salmon (see Section 2.3.3).
- Extensive invasive plant species including blackberries, ivy, and holly.
- ► Human use impacts to ecological quality of some areas, as evidenced by erosion, litter, and vegetation die-off.
- ▶ Impacts from off-leash dogs on sensitive habitat areas including damage from activity and increased nutrient loading in creeks due to people not picking up after their pets.
- Existing interpretive signage, but it is aging.
- ▶ Riverfront is popular for swimming in summer.
- ► No all ages and abilities route to view and experience the river.
- ► Evidence of illegal activity in natural areas (e.g., camping, drug-paraphernalia, garbage, etc.) Public concerns about safety, especially at night.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- ► Improve access to Fish Gut Alley for spawning salmon in the fall and winter and for out-migrating smolts during spring migration.
- ► Restore and protect native plants in areas impacted by invasive species and human use.
- ► Increase opportunities for river viewing and enjoyment.
- ▶ Plan trail development, upgrades, and maintenance to avoid impacts to stream flows including blockage of winter flows or contribution to erosion issues.
- ► Find a balance between protection of sensitive restored areas and human and dog activities, notably in areas where salmon spawning gravels, incubating eggs and alevins, and spawning activities could be disrupted.
- ► Reduce illegal or undesirable activities.
- ► Encourage and support volunteer efforts that achieve ongoing park improvements.

Restored and protected natural areas along the Cowichan River and Fish Gut Alley will provide healthy habitat for birds, fish, and terrestrial wildlife, while offering the opportunity for residents and visitors to explore, relax, and reflect. Built improvements within the Riparian and Natural Areas Zones will be limited, with protection of habitat prioritized. Key opportunities for sitting and relaxing or meandering and reflecting will be integrated into the natural landscape. Ongoing management of these areas through partnerships, volunteer opportunities, and stewardship efforts will be important to addressing existing issues and maintaining health over time.



#### 4.2.4 CIRCULATION

McAdam and Rotary Parks' circulation network has developed incrementally over time. The existing trail network is well used with a variety of experiences; however opportunities exist to address challenges and create a more seamless and accessible trail experience for all park visitors.



Map 11: Circulation

#### ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Park entrances are poorly defined, automobilefocused, and lack visual cues to welcome pedestrians and cyclists.
- ► No sidewalks along Wharncliffe Road or Beech Ave to provide a defined path of travel from surrounding streets into the parks.
- ► Existing parking lots are sufficient for day-to-day use, but can become full during events.
- ► Lack of bicycle infrastructure.
- ► Little welcome, wayfinding, or regulatory signage. Opportunities to update the current interpretive signs and add more educational signage.
- ▶ Pedestrian connections to the Cowichan Dike Trail are steep with accessibility limitations.
- ► The nature trail along the Cowichan River is well-used when river levels are low, but floods seasonally when river levels are high.
- ► Safety concerns about areas beneath the Silver Bridge.
- ▶ Mixed opinions on off-leash dogs on park trails.
- Limited pathway lighting and concerns about visiting the parks after dark.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- ► Manage parking to limit the need for additional impervious surfaces.
- ► Improve pedestrian connections into the park.
- ► Integrate welcome, wayfinding, regulatory, and educational signage.
- ► Create nature trails that allow for year-round use.
- ▶ Plan trail upgrades to avoid impact to environmentally sensitive areas including riparian and back-channel habitat zones and ensure trails and crossings do not block winter flows and do not erode during flood events.
- ▶ Provide opportunities for users to experience the river throughout the seasons.
- ➤ Create walking routes that provide enjoyable park experiences for all including visitors with their pets and people who prefer not to interact with pets.
- ► Improve accessibility.
- ► Consider strategic lighting to extend hours of use.
- ► Enhance cycling opportunities.

A cohesive pathway system will connect the entire park, physically and visually linking the three park zones and strengthening routes between destinations. The circulation system is envisioned as becoming a complete network that allows walkers, runners, and rollers to move seamlessly throughout the parks. The future trails network will be easy to navigate, comfortable to use, and provide opportunities for all.



















## 5 | RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 MASTER PLAN OVERVIEW

The McAdam and Rotary Parks Master Plan is the product of a comprehensive planning process that analyzed and integrated information from multiple sources. It is the result of an inventory and analysis of the parks today, a review of background documents and user group information, and consideration of community ideas and input.

The outcome of this Master Plan is a series of recommendations that support the implementation of the Vision and Guiding Principles. Recommendations are provided to Council and staff to consider within the context of short- and long-term planning and budget deliberations.

The following guidelines help frame the Master Plan's implementation:

- ▶ It is a long-term plan: Parks are constantly evolving. They require ongoing planning and management to ensure they continue to meet the evolving needs of the environment and of citizens. The long-term nature of the Master Plan requires flexibility and adaptation to respond to unforeseen opportunities or challenges, evolutionary changes such as climate change, and continued public input.
- ▶ Ongoing relationships are needed: McAdam and Rotary Parks provide the City of Duncan with a wide range of recreational and ecological assets. Continuing to work closely with partners, stakeholders, user groups, volunteers, and residents to implement solutions that benefit the parks and their diverse user groups will require ongoing collaboration.
- ▶ Implementation is an iterative process: Changes to one areas may have a ripple effect, which could be cause for plan amendments or further assessment. The Master Plan provides a framework for the parks' evolution, but reviewing current needs and circumstances at each step toward implementation will support a positive trajectory.



#### 5.2 MASTER PLAN CONCEPT

The illustrated Master Plan Concept below summarizes a proposed Vision for the parks. This plan is an illustration of how the Vision, Guiding Principles, and Objectives outlined in *Section 4* could be incorporated and will be used to set planning directions and priorities. Details on the recommendations in the numbered items on the concept are in *Section 5.3*.



Map 12: Master Plan Concept

#### **CIRCULATION**

- RETAIN CURRENT PARKING & IDENTIFY STRATEGIES FOR EVENTS
- 15) CREATE WELCOMING PARK ENTRIES
- 16) REFINE AND EXPAND THE PARK TRAIL NETWORK (see *Map 17*)
- 17) CLEARLY DEFINE OFF- AND ON-LEASH TRAILS FOR DOGS (see Map 22)
- 18) ADD WAYFINDING, INTERPRETIVE, AND REGULATORY SIGNAGE (see *Map 23*)
- 19) ADD LIGHTING AT PARK ENTRIES, STRUCTURES, AND KEY TRAILS (see Map 24)
- 20) PROVIDE ADDITIONAL BICYCLE FACILITIES

#### SAFETY, PROGRAMS, AND EXPANSION

- 21) IMPROVE PARK SAFETY (not shown on map)
- DIVERSIFY PARK PROGRAMS AND FOSTER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (not shown on map)
- 23) CONSIDER PARK EXPANSION





#### 5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Master Plan process generated many ideas for McAdam and Rotary Parks and priority ideas are captured in the following 23 recommendations. Recommendations are organized by park zone. Further design development and planning will be required for proposed projects prior to implementation to confirm design details and project costs. In addition, capital improvements may also result in changes to operational and maintenance requirements, which should be identified during the detailed design process.

Each recommendation includes the following information:

- ► **OVERVIEW:** A brief statement to describe the recommended improvement.
- ► WHY IS THIS RECOMMENDED?: Background information about why the recommendation is proposed, including analysis and public input.
- ► **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:** Key steps towards realizing the recommendation.
- ► TIME FRAME: Identifies short-, medium-, or longterm phasing estimates for implementation of the recommendation:
  - » Short-term: 0 to 5 year time frame» Medium-term: 5 to 10 year time frame
  - » Long-term: 10 year + time frame

- ▶ **COST RANGE:** Identifies a general cost range for planning purposes. Cost ranges are based on general assumptions from similar projects and are provided to assist with long-range budget planning. Costs for infrastructure can vary widely depending on site constraints, design, market forces, or other variables. Cost breakdowns are as follows:
  - » **\$:** \$0 to \$50,000
  - » **\$\$:** \$50,000 to \$100,000
  - » **\$\$\$:** \$100,000 to \$250,000
  - » **\$\$\$:** \$250,000 to \$500,000
  - » \$\$\$\$: \$500,000 +
- ► **PARTIES:** Identifies groups who may be involved in implementing the action.

#### **Abbreviations:**

- » **CoD** = City of Duncan
- » **CVRD** = Cowichan Valley Regional District
- » **CWB** = Cowichan Watershed Board
- » **DFO =** Department of Fisheries & Oceans
- » SD#78 = School District #78
- » VITH = Vancouver Island Trout Hatchery

#### 5.3.1 UPLAND ZONE



Map 13: Upland Zone Plan Diagram

#### **LEGEND**

- 1) ENHANCE THE EXISTING MCADAM FIELDS
- 2 UPGRADE MCADAM PARK BUILDING
- 3 ADD SEATING AND GATHERING AREAS AROUND MCADAM FIELD
- 4 DEVELOP A NEW MCADAM PARK PLAY AREA





#### **ENHANCE THE EXISTING MCADAM FIELDS**

#### **OVERVIEW**

Retain and maintain the existing McAdam Field and practice field and consider addition of spectator seating. Promote opportunities for field use by other programs outside the times it is in use by sports teams.

#### WHY IS THIS RECOMMENDED?

- ► McAdam Field is in good condition and is well-used by sports organizations throughout the year. It is a valued community amenity.
- ► Opportunities may exist to increase use of field spaces, provided that parking and noise impacts are mitigated and field quality is not compromised.
- ► There are limited existing spectator seating or picnic opportunities.
- ► COVID-19 may shift how we use our outdoor spaces, including increasing demand for larger spaces that support physical distancing.



McAdam Field is used by sports teams year-round

REC	COMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
1.1	Add a range of spectator seating options at key locations near McAdam Field, while maintaining flexibility to accommodate different field configurations. Seating should be designed with overnight sheltering considerations in mind.	Short	\$	CoD, CVRD
1.2	Work with field user groups to identify partnerships for McAdam Field upgrades over time.	Ongoing	\$\$\$	CoD, User Groups
1.3	Encourage use of McAdam Field for a range of suitable activities. Ideas suggested as having potential compatibility include: movies in the park, concerts in the park, art activities, exercise classes, seniors programs, bocce, ultimate frisbee, and school programs.	Ongoing	n/a	CVRD
1.4	Replace McAdam Field fencing at end of life. At that time, create a more attractive park perimeter by:  » Replacing chain link with more attractive fencing such as wire mesh fence or black coated chain link.  » Work with schools or artists to re-imagine the existing chain link as a canvas for public art.	Long	\$\$	CoD

#### **RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS**



4) Develop a New McAdam Park Play Area



Add Seating and Gathering Areas Around McAdam Field



Enhance the Existing Rotary Field



*Inspiration*: Fields and adjacent spaces could be used for small gatherings, markets, or celebrations



**Inspiration**: Small artistic elements enliven a chain-link fence, similar to the existing sports field fencing



*Inspiration:* Field spaces can be used for community activities like movies in the park



**Inspiration:** Elements like flexible seating can provide spaces for watching sports, gathering, and relaxing



### 2

#### **UPGRADE MCADAM PARK BUILDING**

#### **OVERVIEW**

Upgrade the McAdam Park Building, washroom facilities, and accessory structures to better serve park visitors, sports teams, and the City of Duncan. Collaborate with field user groups to identify partnerships to create a multi-functional hub that benefits both the public and user groups.

#### WHY IS THIS RECOMMENDED?

- ► The Park Building includes public washrooms, change rooms, and a concession, is located near the parking lot and entry, with strong connections to the fields.
- ► Other structures include a storage shed by the Practice Field and an announcer booth facing McAdam Field. The structures are aging and will require future upgrades.
- ▶ Public feedback indicated support for upgrades including consideration for addition of multi-purpose spaces and meeting rooms to increase community activity in the park.
- ► The existing Park Building location is generally favourable and was supported by public feedback.
- ► There are efficiencies in consolidating and sharing multi-use spaces, rather than developing separate, single-function buildings.



Existing washroom and concession building



Existing storage shed

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
<ul> <li>2.1 Working with stakeholders, develop a design, cost estimate, and funding arrangement to replace the existing Park Building with a new building that considers: <ul> <li>Accessible washrooms and changerooms</li> <li>Concession and/or mobile vending opportunities</li> <li>Inclusion of multi-purpose community spaces such as meeting rooms, event space, or artist- / naturalist-in-residence space</li> <li>Building lighting that supports park safety</li> <li>Integration of adjacent plaza space, including a potential covered area for outdoor seating (see Rec. 3)</li> <li>Equipment storage</li> <li>Consideration for wi-fi and power access (possibly time limited) in the building and surrounding plaza space</li> <li>Other needs identified in collaboration with park stakeholders</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Medium	\$\$	CoD, User Groups
2.2 At the end of its lifespan, remove the existing McAdam Park Building and build the new facility.	Long	\$\$\$\$\$	CoD, User Groups

#### **RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1) Enhance the Existing McAdam Fields
- 4 Develop a New McAdam Park Play Area
- Add Seating and Gathering Areas Around McAdam Field
- Add Lighting at Park Entries, Structures, and Key Trails



*Inspiration:* The McAdam Park Building could facilitate a range of uses, including sports and team facilities, as well as multi-purpose spaces for community events. Covered outdoor spaces provide protected areas for spectators during rainy weather



**Inspiration:** Thoughtful building lighting extends park use and increases safety in the evenings



*Inspiration:* Careful selection of building character is important to align the design with the character of the parks





#### ADD SEATING AND GATHERING AREAS AROUND MCADAM FIELD

#### **OVERVIEW**

While protecting existing memorial trees, expand seating and relaxation opportunities in and around Memorial Grove to create an inviting space for relaxation, socialization, and enjoyment.

#### WHY IS THIS RECOMMENDED?

- ► There are limited amenities and seating areas in McAdam Park. Creating a more welcoming park experience for picnicking and relaxation or informal play could appeal to more park visitors.
- ► Memorial Grove has a mature tree canopy and lawn in a shady, inviting environment.
- ▶ Preservation of the trees in Memorial Grove is a priority, so design will need to work in and around existing trees.
- ► Concerns about social disorder in this area will need to be considered.



Seating options at McAdam Park are currently limited

REC	COMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
3.1	Undertake an arborist assessment to determine health/safety of existing McAdam Park trees and receive recommendations for ongoing protection and management (coordinate with other tree assessments – see <i>Rec. 9</i> ).	Short	\$	CoD
3.2	Develop a landscape plan for the area around the new Park Building (in conjunction with the Park Building design) and Memorial Grove, that integrates elements such as:  » More picnic areas selectively located throughout Memorial Grove  » A paved plaza around the Park Building (see Rec. 2) that supports small gatherings, groups of spectators, programs, and options for mobile food vending  » New shade trees around the Park Building and seating areas  » Park amenities including drinking fountain, bike racks, and garbage / recycling receptacles  » An enhanced pathway to support an accessible route from the parking area to Beech Ave  » Selective lighting (see Rec. 19)	Medium	\$\$	CoD, User Groups
3.3		Long	\$\$\$	CoD

#### **RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1) Enhance the Existing McAdam Fields
- 4) Develop a New McAdam Park Play Area
- Add Lighting at Park Entries, Structures, and Key Trails
- 2 Upgrade McAdam Park Building
- 9 Manage and Grow the Tree Canopy



**Inspiration:** Lounge seating encourages relaxation



*Inspiration:* A range of bench types and configurations for groups and individuals encourages people to find a space that suits their needs



*Inspiration:* Flexible, open lawn areas allow for informal social gatherings



*Inspiration:* Multi-purpose plaza spaces can support a range of activities and events and permeable materials support water infiltration





#### **DEVELOP A NEW MCADAM PARK PLAY AREA**

#### **OVERVIEW**

Add an adventure play area for children of all ages, including integrated seating and lighting.

#### WHY IS THIS RECOMMENDED?

- ► There are limited public playgrounds for young children within a 10-15 minute walk of McAdam Park.
- ▶ In 2017, a student presentation on McAdam Park identified a desire from youth to have more outdoor recreation options, including a potential parkour area that creates a fun, physical, and free recreation activity.
- ► Outside of sporting events, the Memorial Grove area is not typically well used.
- ▶ Play amenities next to McAdam Field would support families when spectating a game.
- ► The existing open lawn area could support new amenities with little to no impact to existing vegetation or natural areas.
- Existing trees provide shade and potential for nature play.
- ► Concerns about illegal activity in play areas would need to be considered.



The open lawn area south of McAdam Field is an opportunity to integrate additional amenities with minimal impact to natural areas

REC	OMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
4.1	Develop, with input from children and youth, a detailed design for a new playground in McAdam Park that provides a range of play opportunities for children of all ages. Key considerations for playground design should include:  » Concept features shown in Map 14  » Spaces for unstructured free-play  » Use of plant materials that are low-maintenance and provide habitat value  » An integrated circulation network  » Addition of selective lighting  » Inclusive and accessible design  » Integration with the future Park Building (see Rec. 2) and surrounding areas (see Rec. 3)	Short	\$\$	CoD, Children & Youth
4.2	Work with stakeholders and volunteers to identify strategies to support safety at the McAdam Park play area such as site checks, clean-up days, and passive or active surveillance.	Short	\$	CoD, Volunteers
4.3	Build the new McAdam Park playground.	Short	\$\$\$	CoD

- 1 Enhance the Existing McAdam Fields
- Add Seating and Gathering Areas Around McAdam Field
- Add Lighting at Park Entries, Structures, and Key Trails



9) Manage and Grow the Tree Canopy

FLEXIBLE SPECTATOR SEATING NEAR MCADAM FIELD

NEW ACCESSIBLE PEDESTRIAN
PATHWAY BETWEEN PARKING AREA
AND BEECH AVE

OPEN GRASS AREAS FOR PICNICKING AND RELAXATION

EXISTING MEMORIAL GROVE TREES TO REMAIN

PLAY AREA FOR TODDLERS AND YOUNGER CHILDREN: INCLUDE SMALL CLIMBING STRUCTURES AND SLIDES, BALANCING, SPRING TOYS, FREE PLAY

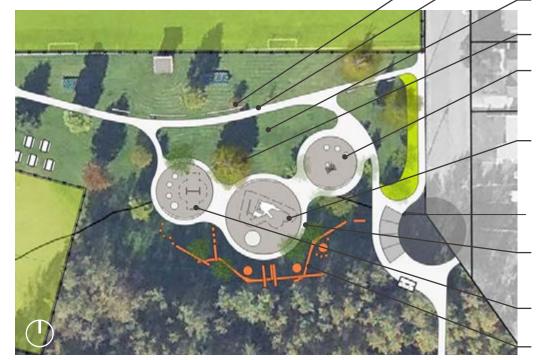
PLAY AREA FOR OLDER CHILDREN: CONSIDER LARGER CLIMBING STRUCTURES, CLIMBING BOULDERS, HIGH SLIDES

NEW BEECH AVE. PARKING AREA AND ENTRANCE (SEE REC. 15)

ACCESSIBLE PATHWAY LOOP FOR RUNNING AND MINI-BIKING, INTEGRATED, FLEXIBLE SEAT WALLS

SWING AREA WITH TRADITIONAL AND BASKET SWINGS

PARKOUR PLAY AREA INTEGRATED INTO TREES



Map 14: Plan Concept of McAdam Park Play Area



**Inspiration:** Play elements integrated into a treed setting



**Inspiration:** Clear, level paths throughout the play area for universal access



**Inspiration:** Artistic play opportunities for climbing, exploration, and discovery





# 5.3.2 LOWLAND ZONE



Map 15: Lowland Zone Plan Diagram



# **LEGEND**

- 5 ENHANCE THE EXISTING ROTARY FIELD
- 6) INTEGRATE PARK AMENITIES NEAR ROTARY FIELD
- 7) CONVERT THE EXISTING TENNIS COURT INTO A MULTI-SPORT COURT
- 8 ADD A PUBLIC WASHROOM AT ROTARY PARK





# **ENHANCE THE EXISTING ROTARY FIELD**

#### **OVERVIEW**

Retain the existing Rotary Field and continue to create opportunities for better connectivity, integrated spectator seating, and increased use.

#### WHY IS THIS RECOMMENDED?

- ► Rotary Field is in good condition and well-used by sports organizations throughout the year.
- ► The field is often not used during weekday hours and on some weekends.
- ▶ Existing field lighting allows for extended hours of use into the evening, and the field location within the treed area minimizes light trespass to adjacent properties; however access routes to and from the field are poorly lit and the public identified concerns about limited visibility and sightlines.
- ➤ COVID-19 may shift how we use our outdoor spaces, including increasing demand for larger spaces that support physical distancing.



The existing field is in good condition and could support a range of activities

REC	OMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
5.1	Add pedestrian-scale lighting to connect Rotary Field to adjacent park entrances at McKinstry Rd and Wharncliffe Rd (see Rec. 19).	Short	\$\$	CoD
5.2	Encourage use of Rotary Field for a range of suitable activities. Ideas suggested as having potential compatibility include: movies in the park, concerts in the park, art activities, exercise classes, and seniors programs.	Ongoing	n/a	CVRD

# **RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1 Enhance the Existing McAdam Fields
- Convert the Existing Tennis Court into a Multi-Sport



Integrate Park Amenities Near Rotary Field



Add a Public Washroom at Rotary Park







Inspiration: Rotary Field could be a suitable space for a range of activities



# 6 INTEGRATE PARK AMENITIES NEAR ROTARY FIELD

#### **OVERVIEW**

Provide informal opportunities for seating or exercise in Rotary Park in key open spaces and along trails.

#### WHY IS THIS RECOMMENDED?

- ► There are large open areas in Rotary Park adjacent to trails and Rotary Field that are level and are not currently well used.
- ► While area trails are well-used by there are few opportunities to stop, rest, and socialize.
- ➤ Youth feedback indicated strong support for more recreational elements in the park.
- ► Input suggested support for the addition of well-kept seating areas for gathering and relaxing.
- Additional activity in Rotary Park would increase positive activity and passive surveillance.



Existing open spaces next to the field are typically not well-used and could provide space for amenities

REC	COMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
6.1	<ul> <li>Add small-scale recreation amenities adjacent to Rotary</li> <li>Field, including:</li> <li>Benches and seating areas that provide flexible seating options for both individuals and groups.</li> <li>Informal natural seats and play elements such as logs and boulders along trails for informal seating or play</li> </ul>	Medium	\$	CoD
	» Additional trees and vegetation			
6.2	Consider a picnic shelter adjacent to Rotary Field to provide gathering space or small group rentals. Future implementation would be dependent on improved social conditions in the park. Key elements could include:  » Low, natural fencing to limit off-leash dog access  » Consideration for BBQ pits  » Low-level lighting  » Planning to operate and maintain the picnic shelter to deter undesirable occupation (i.e., camping)	Long	\$\$\$	CoD

#### **RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS**





9 Manage and Grow the Tree Canopy



Inspiration: Covered picnic shelter in a natural setting





# CONVERT THE EXISTING TENNIS COURT INTO A MULTI-SPORT COURT

#### **OVERVIEW**

Upgrade or replace the existing tennis court and re-stripe to provide multi-sport functionality. If use increases following facility upgrades, consider addition of a second court to the east and potential for cover.

- ► Anecdotal input suggests the existing tennis court is not well used, in part due to deteriorating condition, lack of lighting, and limited amenities.
- ▶ The area around the court is level and open.
- ► A stand of Black Cottonwood trees to the east provide shade and habitat, but is aging and trees are potentially susceptible to breakage. Lower-level vegetation is impacted by invasive species.
- ► Youth input indicated a desire for additional sports and recreation opportunities in the area, notably informal or pick-up activities.
- ► Increased use of the tennis court area could improve passive surveillance in Rotary Park.



The existing tennis court is in poor condition, limiting potential use

REC	COMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
7.1	Convert the existing court to an improved multi- sport court, with considerations for basketball, mini- soccer, floor hockey, tennis, and/or pickleball. Design considerations should include:  » Prioritization of youth activities (i.e., basketball)  » Incorporation of supporting elements such as benches or seat walls, water fountain, waste / recycling receptacle  » A welcoming park design with features like a sunken court, seatwalls at grade, or attractive fencing  » Court lighting  » Improvements to the entry area between the parking lot and the upgraded court	Short	\$\$	CoD
7.2	Consider providing a "play box" near the court area that holds equipment such as basketballs, rackets, frisbees, skipping ropes, kites, games, or other toys (see box on next page for example program)	Short	\$	CVRD, Live 5-2-1-0
7.3	As court use increases, consider integration of a second court to the east of the existing court.	Long	\$\$\$	CoD
7.4	Consider addition of a covered structure to one or both of courts to support all-season use.	Long	\$\$\$	CoD

- Enhance the Existing Rotary Field
- Add a Public Washroom at Rotary Park
- Create Welcoming Park Entries

- Integrate Park Amenities Near Rotary Field
- Manage and Grow the Tree Canopy





**Inspiration**: Upgraded court surfacing to accommodate different uses **Inspiration**: Flexible spectator seating options (seat walls)



Inspiration: Covered multi-sport court spaces support use throughout all seasons

#### A Good Example: Live 5-2-1-0!

The Live 5-2-1-0 Program works to provide healthy communities for children by encouraging good food choices, limiting screen time, and playing actively. The program provides play boxes in parks with free recreational equipment, games, and instructions for children and families to use. Communities from Trail to Nanaimo have implemented play boxes so far and the response has been very positive.

Visit www.live5210.ca for more information!







# ADD A PUBLIC WASHROOM AT ROTARY PARK

#### **OVERVIEW**

Develop a new, small-scale public washroom in Rotary Park to support Rotary Field, the courts area, the trails, and the riverfront.

#### WHY IS THIS RECOMMENDED?

- ► Currently there are no washrooms in Rotary Park.
- ▶ Public input suggested that a washroom is a desirable amenity.
- ► Input revealed that visitors who arrive from the McKinstry Rd entrance may not use or be aware of the McAdam Park washrooms.
- ► The McAdam Park washrooms are not universally accessible and are aging.
- ▶ Concerns about vandalism and mis-use of facilities would need to be addressed prior to implementation. Managing public washrooms currently requires significant resources and new facilities should only be considered with improved social conditions in the park or additional resourcing is available.



McAdam Park washroom facilities are not universally accessible

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
8.1 Consider developing a small-scale washroom building	Medium	\$\$\$	CoD
near the courts area at Rotary Park with the following			
design considerations:			
» 1 to 2 universally accessible stalls			
» Increased resources for regular inspection and cleaning			
» Integration with the court area design (see Rec. 7)			
» Materials that align with other park structures (e.g.,			
McAdam Park Building- see Rec. 2 and Picnic Shelter-			
see Rec. 6)			
» Lighting and visibility			

## **RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS**







15) Create Welcoming Park Entries



**Inspiration**: The design of built structures plays a key role in contributing to a park's visual identity

#### 5.3.3 RIPARIAN AND NATURAL AREAS ZONE



Map 16: Riparian and Natural Areas Zone Diagram





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# MANAGE AND GROW THE TREE CANOPY

#### **OVERVIEW**

Protect existing trees in McAdam and Rotary Parks and prepare for renewal and expansion of the urban forest.

- ▶ Park visitors value the mature tree canopy, including both native and non-native species.
- ► The Black Cottonwood trees in Rotary Park are nearing the end of their lifespan and should be evaluated for health and to prepare for renewal. Cottonwood trees consume vast amounts of water making them an important species for floodwater management. However, they are also known to be weak-limbed, making them susceptible to blow-down and breakage.
- ► There are open areas in the parks that would benefit from additional trees for shade and to reduce heat island effect.
- ► The City of Duncan's Urban Forest Strategy provides recommendations for deciduous and coniferous tree planting in Rotary Park.
- ► Integrating a diverse range of tree species and ages supports a continuous, healthy tree canopy.



Rotary Park's mature tree canopy is valued, but some trees are nearing the end of their lifespan

REC	COMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
9.1	Undertake an arborist tree inventory and assessment of existing park trees, including a review of tree health and potential risks and recommendations for management.  The assessment should consider:  Proposed amenities / improvements in this plan  Opportunities for habitat creation (e.g., creation of snags – i.e., dead standing trees)  Flood management considerations	Short	\$	CoD
9.2	Utilize the tree assessment for planning and siting new park features and amenities to protect tree roots and canopies.	Ongoing	n/a	CoD
9.3	Undertake tree management activities identified in the tree assessment such as removal or pruning of compromised trees.	Short	\$\$	CoD
9.4	Integrate new tree planting with all proposed park upgrades, prioritizing native species and striving to increase species diversity.	Ongoing	per project	CoD

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
<ul> <li>9.5 Develop a planting strategy for natural area regeneration in the parks that:         <ul> <li>Integrates recommendations from the City of Duncan's Urban Forestry Strategy, the arborist report, Cowichan Tribes, and experts in the area's local ecology.</li> <li>Prioritizes regeneration of trees over time including successional forest planting. A later succession tree species that could be established is the Sitka Spruce, a culturally and environmentally important tree on eastern Vancouver Island.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Short	\$	CoD, Cowichan Tribes, Local Experts
9.6 Implement recommendations from the planting strategy incrementally.	Ongoing	\$\$	CoD, Volunteers

- 2 Upgrade McAdam Park Building
- 4 Develop a New McAdam Park Play Area
- Convert the Existing Tennis Court into a Multi-Sport Court
- Protect, Restore & Enhance Natural Areas Along the River
- Add Seating and Gathering Areas Around McAdam Field
- 6) Integrate Park Amenities Near Rotary Field
- 10 Restore Fish Gut Alley
- 16) Refine and Expand the Park Trail Network



**Existing:** Information signage in the parks explains forest succession



**Inspiration:** Infill planting with species like Sitka spruce can expand habitat variety



**Inspiration:** Trimming of hazardous trees to create snags (i.e., dead-standing trees) provides benefits for birds and wildlife



# 10)

# **RESTORE FISH GUT ALLEY**

#### **OVERVIEW**

Restore spawning habitat in Fish Gut Alley to re-instate its important role in salmon spawning and rearing.

- ► Fish Gut Alley provides important fish-rearing habitat. It plays a critical role in the parks' ecological framework.
- ▶ Fish Gut Alley supported a strong run of chum salmon and upward of 800 adult coho salmon in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Reduced runs of these salmon, possibly due to access limitations created by dike upgrade, infrastructure degradation (culverts through the dike), and vegetation growth, has interrupted the natural yearly turning over of the gravel within the channel by spawning salmon. Without natural turnover, fine sediments and organic debris have accumulated over the spawning gravel, accompanied by the establishment of dense reed canary grass which reduces the flow velocities required to help keep spawning gravel clear. This has reduced the effectiveness of Fish Gut Alley as a spawning channel.
- ► The CVRD Lower Cowichan and Koksilah Floodplain Management Plan recommends improvements to Fish Gut Alley as a priority to support Chum, Coho, and Trout spawning.
- ► There is little interpretive signage that provides information specific to Fish Gut Alley's history or ecology.
- ▶ Public input supports efforts to improve natural systems in the parks.



In recent years, Fish Gut Alley has seen increased sediment and aquatic vegetation in the channel, impacting flows and reducing fish habitat potential



Fish Gut Alley in winter

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
<ul> <li>10.1 Collaborate with Cowichan Tribes fisheries biologists and local experts to develop a detailed approach to improving spawning conditions in Fish Gut Alley. Potential improvements may include:</li> <li>» Assessment of reed canary grass and rooted aquatic plants in the spawning channels to mitigate impacts on stream velocity.</li> <li>» Construction of strategically placed rock channel constriction structures to locally increase water velocity to increase oxygenation within the spawning channels.</li> <li>» Incorporation of protection fencing or other measures in the most sensitive restored areas to limit human and dog access that would disturb spawning habitat.</li> <li>» Development of a stormwater management and monitoring plan to analyze water inputs to Fish Gut Alley through all seasons</li> </ul>	Short	\$\$	CoD, DFO, Cowichan Tribes, CWB, Not-for- Profits, Local Experts
10.2 Work with the Cowichan Tribes hatchery to explore potential addition of adult chum into Fish Gut Alley to jump-start the run and turn over the gravel in preparation for future runs once access is improved.	Short	\$	CoD, DFO, Cowichan Tribes, CWB, Not-for-Profits
10.3 Add new interpretive signage at the Fish Gut Alley bridge crossings to provide information about the channel's history and ecology (see Rec. 18).	Short	\$	CoD, Cowichan Tribes, CWB, Not-for-Profits



Add Wayfinding, Interpretive, and Regulatory Signage



Protect, Restore & Enhance Natural Areas Along the River



Consider Park Expansion



**Inspiration:** Interpretive signage can be used to share details about the importance of the area



*Inspiration:* Stream restoration efforts should focus on creating desirable spawning and rearing habitat for salmon





# PROTECT, RESTORE & ENHANCE NATURAL AREAS ALONG THE RIVER

#### **OVERVIEW**

Protect and restore natural areas along the Cowichan River to remove invasive species, align with the changing river environment, focus human use, and support a healthy river environment.

- ► The Cowichan River and riparian areas provide important habitat for fish, birds, and animals.
- ▶ Public input indicated that the river is historically, culturally, and environmentally significant to the community.
- ► The riparian areas between the dike and river provide flood attenuation helping to protect adjacent residential areas.
- ► The quality of the riparian ecosystems has been impacted by human and dog activity, with instances of erosion, invasive species, littering, and illegitimate camping.
- ► The 2015 CVRD State of the Environment Report indicates the number of returning spawners for Fall Coho and Chinook have been reduced by approximately 90% from levels documented in the previous 80 years. The status of winter Steelhead Trout in the river is also a conservation concern.
- ▶ During the summer, the river is often used for swimming and recreation.



The Cowichan River is a defining feature of McAdam and Rotary Parks



Parts of the bank have been impacted by human and dog activity

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
11.1 In partnership with Cowichan Tribes and other	Short	\$	CoD,
organizations, develop a Riparian Management Plan for			Cowichan
the banks of the Cowichan River within the parks. The			Tribes, CWB,
plan would address topics including:			Not-for-
» Riparian habitat assessment			Profits, CVRD,
» Stormwater management analysis and			DFO
recommendations for riparian zones			
» Restoration actions and prescriptions, plant lists, soil			
amendments, and maintenance strategies			
» Conversion of lawn areas on the south side of the dike			
to native riparian vegetation			
» Incorporation of habitat features like large woody			
debris, varied terrain and micro-climates, etc.			
» Erosion control measures			
» Fencing of newly restored areas to limit impacts from			
human and dog activities			
» Funding and volunteer opportunities			

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
11.2 Develop volunteer opportunities, potentially in partnership with other organizations, to support restoration days with activities like invasive species removal, creation of new native planting areas, clean-up of litter, etc.	Ongoing	n/a	CoD, Volunteers
11.3 Undertake restoration projects incrementally with evaluation of each program to support continuous improvement of the restoration approach.	Ongoing	\$\$	CoD, Volunteers
11.4 Incorporate educational and regulatory signage to provide information about restoration efforts.	Ongoing	per project	CoD

- 9 Manage and Grow the Tree Canopy
- 12) Improve River Access & Viewing
- Add Wayfinding, Interpretive, and Regulatory Signage
- 10) Restore Fish Gut Alley
- 13) Integrate Pollinator-Friendly Plantings
- Diversify Park Programs and Foster Community Partnerships



**Inspiration:** Volunteer plant restoration days can foster park stewardship



Inspiration: Educational signage

# **Riparian Area Restoration References:**

- » BC Standards for Riparian Restoration Planning, Treatments, Treatment Effectiveness Evaluation, and Inspection and Maintenance: www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/fia\_docs/ riparian\_rest\_standard\_s.pdf
- » Stewardship Centre of BC Riparian Restoration and Enhancement Guide: www.stewardshipcentrebc.ca/riparian-guide/
- Recommended Native Plants for Restoring a Riparian Area in Saanich www.saanich.ca/assets/Community/Documents



#### A Good Example: Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers

The Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers is a charitable organization with a dedicated group of volunteers who donate their time to maintain and enhance local rivers and streams. In addition to overseeing stream mapping and assessment of many watercourses throughout Qualicum Beach, the Streamkeepers have undertaken restoration projects at Beach, Grandon, and Whiskey Creeks, among others, and are dedicated to fostering stream stewardship and education. For more information visit: www.obstreamkeepers.ca

# Riparian and Natural Areas Zone Large woody debris left to decompose in the forest is a wealth of diversity and life. Nurse logs, like the one shown here, provide homes to a wide range of species, generate important system nutrients, and aid in the recovery of a healthy ecosystem.

Image: Nicholas A. Tonelli (CC-BY-2.0)

# 12)

# 12) IMPROVE RIVER ACCESS & VIEWING

## **Description:**

Provide accessible routes to viewpoints of the Cowichan River and improve and define river-viewing areas. Focus river access to defined locations to reduce human impacts and educate visitors on shoreline protection.

#### Rationale:

- ► The nature path that connects the Cowichan Dike Trail to the river has uneven terrain and accessibility challenges.
- ▶ Public input showed support for limited river access, but maintaining a primarily natural interface. Concerns were identified that more extensive riverfront infrastructure could impact ecosystem health and be subject to regular flooding impacts.
- ► Flood impacts are a key consideration for improvements on the south side of the dike. Any improvements will need to be designed to withstand seasonal flooding.



Existing "ad hoc" river access

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
12.1 Improve existing pathway connections on both sides of	Short	\$	CoD
the Cowichan Dike Trail for improved accessibility to the			
river area.			
12.2 Incorporate "natural" seating opportunities along the	Medium	\$	CoD
riverfront trail including logs, boulders, and rustic wood			
seats, recognizing the area is subject to seasonal flooding.			
12.3 Sign up to four river access points and encourage shoreline	Medium	\$	CoD
restoration in other areas to limit erosion. Consider			
specifying access points where dog use is permitted.			
12.4 Consider long-term integration of a viewpoint along the	Long	\$\$\$	CoD
Cowichan Dike Trail in Rotary Park that provides views to			
the river, but is constructed outside the floodplain area.			

#### **RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Protect, Restore & Enhance Natural Areas Along the River
- Add Wayfinding, Interpretive, and Regulatory Signage





**Inspiration:** Logs and root wads as informal play elements



*Inspiration:* A playful viewing structure



*Inspiration:* Educational signs about dogs near streams



# **INTEGRATE POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY PLANTINGS**

#### **Description:**

Strategically replace portions of lawn areas with plantings that attract pollinators to increase biodiversity and create a pollinator pathway through the parks with potential for continuation into surrounding neighbourhoods.

#### Rationale:

- ▶ There are a many lawn areas that are underutilized.
- B.C.'s roughly 450 native bee species are in decline. Native bees pollinate plants that produce fruit, nuts, and seeds that birds, animals, and humans rely on.
- ► McAdam and Rotary Parks are situated on the edge of the City and provide a transition from the urban landscape to natural areas along the Cowichan River. Pollinator plantings in McAdam and Rotary Parks will increase connectivity for bees and other pollinators.
- ► An existing group of volunteers has expressed interest in pollinator gardens, providing a potential collaborative opportunity to advance select projects



Underused lawn areas could be considered for pollinator-friendly plantings

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
13.1 Work with City staff and volunteers to identify places for	Short	n/a	CoD,
pollinator-friendly planting such as (see <i>Map 10</i> ):			Volunteers
» Lawn area west of the McAdam parking lot			
» Adjacent to proposed Beech Ave parking area			
» Entry from the McKinstry Road parking area			
» Open spaces to the east of Rotary Field			
» Select portions of the north side of the Dike			
» Other locations identified with experts and volunteers			
13.2 Add hose-bibs and/or irrigation connections at	Short	\$	CoD
select planting locations to support watering during			
establishment and summer.			
13.3 Create a partnership with a volunteer organization to	Short	\$	CoD,
support development and long-term maintenance of a			Volunteers
pollinator pilot project. Once a partnership is established,			
undertake planting development. Pollinator plantings			
should integrate features such as:			
» Native species that produce pollen and nectar			
throughout the growing season			
» Pathways through the gardens			
» Benches or seating elements			
» Interpretive signage			

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
13.4 Continue to add pollinator gardens as resources and	Ongoing	\$	CoD,
management agreements allow.			Volunteers



Protect, Restore & Enhance Natural Areas Along the River



Add Wayfinding, Interpretive, and Regulatory Signage



Create Welcoming Park Entries



Diversify Park Programs and Foster Community Partnerships





Inspiration: Signage delineates pollinator planting areas and provides information about gardens and local efforts to establish these areas.



*Inspiration*: Partnering with local community and volunteer groups can support establishment and maintenance of pollinator planting areas

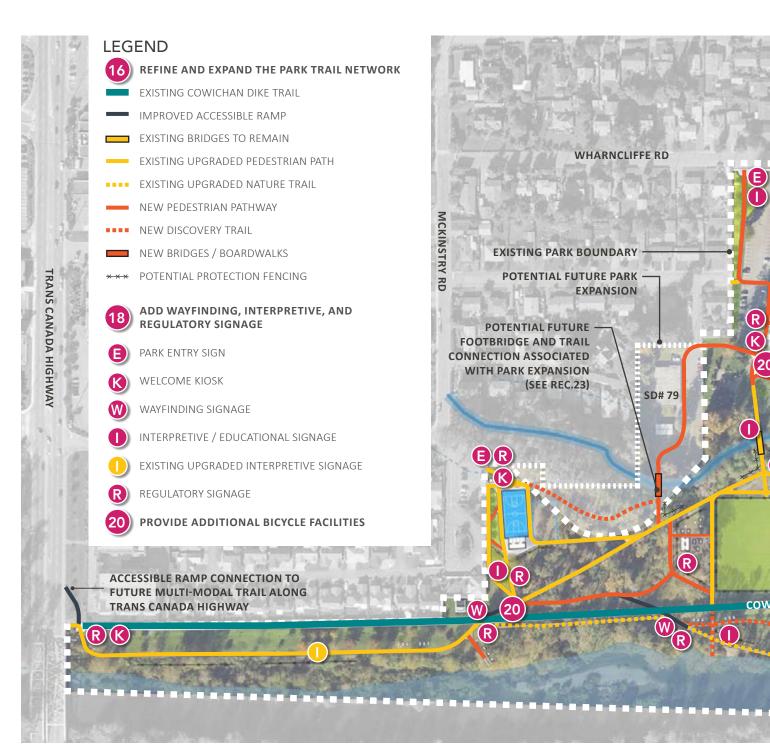
#### **Resources for Pollinator Gardens:**

- » Pollinator Pathway Project: www.pollinatorpathway.com
- » Island Pollinator Initiative: www.islandpollinatorinitiative.ca
- » Pollinator Partnership Canada: www.pollinator.org/canada
- » Saanich Native Plants:
  saanichnativenlants com



#### 5.3.4 CIRCULATION

The illustrated Circulation Concept below expands the existing pedestrian path and trail network to improve current issues and create an easy to navigate, well connected, and inviting trail system. The routes shown in this concept are approximate and would be subject to refinement during future design and implementation.



Map 17: Circulation Concept







## **RETAIN CURRENT PARKING & IDENTIFY STRATEGIES FOR EVENTS**

#### **OVERVIEW**

Maintain existing parking areas at the Wharncliffe Road and McKinstry Road park entries. Seek opportunities to establish additional parking at the adjacent unoccupied #SD 79 site and at the south end of Beech Street. Explore potential for event / overflow parking at the nearby Vancouver Island Trout Hatchery site.

#### WHY IS THIS RECOMMENDED?

- ▶ Public input and site visits indicate current parking lots are typically sufficient for day-to-day park use, but often capacity is exceeded during events.
- ► Residential areas around the parks have on-street parking which is often used as overflow parking during events.
- ► Preservation of the parks' open spaces and natural areas were identified as a public priority, including limiting expansion of impervious surfaces. This means a primary focus on utilizing existing parking areas.



McKinstry Rd parking lot on a winter weekend

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
14.1 Work with SD#79 to consider parking at the existing	Short	n/a	CoD, SD#78
adjacent school site.			
14.2 Work with the Vancouver Island Trout Hatchery to consider	Medium	n/a	CoD, VITH
public event parking and/or weekend overflow parking at			
the hatchery parking lot.			
14.3 When parking lot upgrades are required at the	Medium	\$\$\$	CoD
Wharncliffe and McKinstry Rd parking lots, undertake			
aesthetic and functional improvements, including:			
» Shade trees to reduce heat island effect and support			
urban forest growth			
» Electric vehicle charging			
» Improved pedestrian and cycling connections (see Rec.			
16)			
» Improved lighting (see Rec. 19)			
14.4 Create a small new parking area at the south end of Beech	Medium	\$\$	CoD
Ave. to provide pull-in stalls (approx. 4 stalls).			

#### **RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS**



Add Wayfinding, Interpretive, and Regulatory Signage

Add Lighting at Park Entries, Structures, and Key Trails





Map 18: Parking Options

Table 2: Parking Summary

EXISTING PARKING	STANDARD STALLS	ACCESSIBLE STALLS	TOTAL STALLS
MCADAM	56	2	58
ROTARY	15	1	16
EXISTING TOTAL	71	3	74
POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL FUTURE PARKING	STANDARD STALLS	ACCESSIBLE STALLS	TOTAL STALLS
SD #79	7	1	8
VI HATCHERY (event use)	20	1	21
NEW BEECH AVE PARKING	3	1	4
FUTURE ADDITIONAL TOTAL	30	3	33
TOTAL (EXISTING + FUTURE)	101	6	107



# 15

# **CREATE WELCOMING PARK ENTRIES**

#### **OVERVIEW**

Create welcoming entrances for pedestrians and cyclists, including enhancement of trail connections and amenities that encourage visitors to use alternative modes of transportation when visiting the parks.

#### WHY IS THIS RECOMMENDED?

▶ Public input revealed that most park visitors currently drive to the parks. Improved pedestrian and cycling connections could encourage active transportation.

#### ► McAdam Park Entry (Wharncliffe Rd):

- » The entry has no pedestrian path to connect the parking lot or surrounding streets to the park trail system, meaning park visitors walk through the parking lot to enter the park.
- » There is a low chain link fence at the northwest corner that restricts pedestrian access and does not provide a welcoming park entry.
- » There is no wayfinding signage.

#### ► Rotary Park Entry (McKinstry Rd):

- » Pedestrians must access the park through the parking lot at this entrance.
- » There is no wayfinding signage.

#### ► Silver Bridge / Island Hwy Entry:

» The Trans Canada Highway Corridor Management Plan recommends a new 3 m wide multi-use pathway on the east side of the highway (adjacent to Rotary Park). Currently a set of stairs and an informal pathway (desire line) connect the Cowichan Dike Trail to the Trans Canada Highway sidewalk, but it is not an accessible route.

#### ► Hatchery Entry:

- » The Somenos Trail Loop enters Rotary Park in the east near the Vancouver Island Hatchery.
- » There is no parking in this location; however, people sometimes informally park at the hatchery.



The entry into McAdam Park from Wharncliffe Rd has no pedestrian or cyclist accommodation



The existing pedestrian connection into Rotary Park from the McKinstry entrance has limited signage



The existing stair and informal pathway that connect the Cowichan Dike Trail to the Trans Canada Highway are not accessible to all ages and abilities

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
15.1 Develop an accessible park entrance ramp from the Trans	Medium	\$	CoD
Canada Highway to the Cowichan Dike Trail in Rotary Park			
at the west park entrance (near the Silver Bridge) - see			
Map 21.			

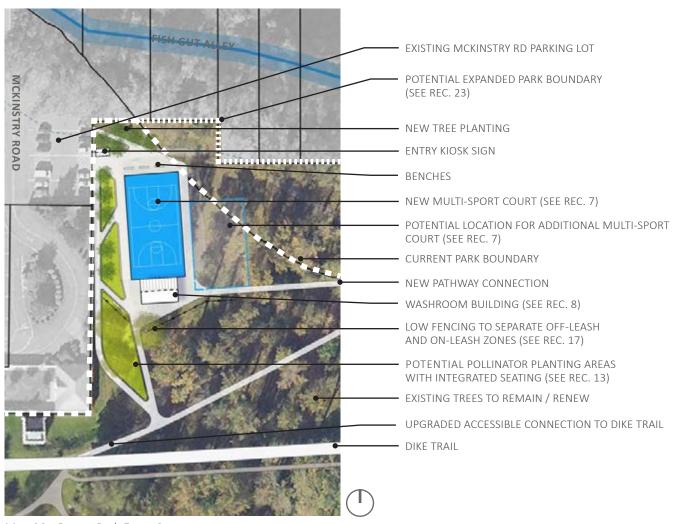
RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
15.2 Upgrade the McAdam Park entry to incorporate elements	Medium	\$\$	CoD
outlined in <i>Map 19</i> .			
15.3 Upgrade the Rotary Park entry at McKinstry Rd to	Medium	\$\$	CoD
incorporate elements shown in Map 20.			

- 16) Refine and Expand the Park Trail Network
- Add Lighting at Park Entries, Structures, and Key Trails
- 21) Improve Park Safety

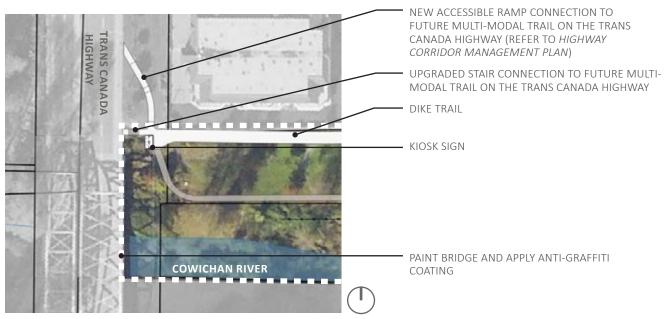
- Add Wayfinding, Interpretive, and Regulatory Signage
- 20) Provide Additional Bicycle Facilities



Map 19: McAdam Park Entry Concept



Map 20: Rotary Park Entry Concept



Map 21: Trans Canada Highway Trail Connection Concept

# 16)

# REFINE AND EXPAND THE PARK TRAIL NETWORK

#### **OVERVIEW**

Sensitively upgrade and add primary, secondary, and discovery trails and improve accessible pathway connections to increase accessibility and wayfinding while minimizing impacts to natural areas.

- ► Walking is one of the primary activities in McAdam and Rotary Parks. People of all ages and abilities use the trails for walking, running, biking, and dog-walking.
- ► The Cowichan Dike Trail is a key transportation and recreational corridor, providing a flat, accessible pathway.
- ▶ There are two accessible ramps on the north side of the Cowichan Dike Trail in Rotary Park. Existing trails on the south side of the Cowichan Dike Trail do not meet accessibility guidelines.
- ► Portions of the existing nature trail adjacent to the Cowichan River flood seasonally, notably at the east end.
- ▶ Public input indicated concerns about walking in the park alone, especially in the evenings.



Existing ramp on the north side of the Cowichan Dike Trail

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
16.1 As shown on <i>Map 17 on page 84</i> , develop a new	Medium	S	CoD
accessible trail through McAdam Park Memorial Grove			
to connect the future play area (see Rec. 4) and create a			
continuous walking loop.			
16.2 As shown on <i>Map 17 on page 84</i> , upgrade and add	Medium	\$\$	CoD
accessible ramp connections on both sides of the			
Cowichan Dike Trail in Rotary Park (two accessible			
connections on each side) including accessible slopes,			
landings, surfacing, and handrails as feasible (recognizing			
the south side of the dike may be affected by seasonal			
flooding).			
16.3 As shown on Map 17 on page 84, address trail flooding	Medium	\$\$	CoD
issues at the east end by adding a raised bridge or			
boardwalk. Design will need to withstand winter flooding,			
avoid erosion, and minimize potential habitat impacts.			
16.4 As shown on Map 17 on page 84, explore potential	Long	\$	CoD,
development of "Discovery Nature Paths" that wind			Volunteers
through tree areas and connect visitors with natural areas.			
Encourage park users to "stay on the path" to limit impacts			
to habitat. Plan and design trails and crossings to ensure			
winter flows are not impeded and to avoid erosion.			



- 12) Improve River Access & Viewing
- 17) Clearly Define Off- and On-leash Trails for Dogs
- 15) Create Welcoming Park Entries
- Add Wayfinding, Interpretive, and Regulatory Signage



*Inspiration*: Provide smooth, even trail surfaces to support a range of activities



*Inspiration*: Place benches at regular intervals and key destinations along trails. Select materials and styles that will have high durability and resistance to vandalism



**Inspiration:** Route future trails around mature trees and vegetation



*Inspiration*: Integrate accessible design so that trail users of all ages and levels of mobility can enjoy the parks



# Clearly Define Off- and On-leash Trails for Dogs

#### **OVERVIEW**

Define and mark trails for off- and on-leash use and develop educational information and activities that continue to build awareness about the relationship between dogs and natural spaces.

- ▶ Parts of McAdam and Rotary Parks are off-leash dog areas. Public input indicated support for maintaining off-leash trails which allow exercise and enjoyment of nature with pets. Many dog owners indicated that trail loops and access to the river were key attractions.
- ► Off-leash trails are well used throughout the year, providing passive surveillance and positive park activity.
- ► Some people have expressed concerns about interactions with dogs or dog waste on the trails and in park spaces.
- ► The Master Plan includes recommendations to upgrade natural areas including Fish Gut Alley and riparian areas. Limiting impacts from off-leash activities in these areas during and after restoration will be important.
- ► There is limited signage to define the off- and on-leash areas within the parks or describe codes of conduct.





Rotary trails are well-used by dog walkers at all times of year

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
17.1 As shown on Map 22 on page 96, clearly mark the trails	Short	\$\$	CoD,
network to inform all park users about off- and on-leasl	n		Volunteers
areas. Key considerations include:			
» Maintaining trails in Rotary Park as primarily off-leas	h		
» Maintaining trails in McAdam Park as primarily			
on-leash, notably around the fields and proposed			
playground area (see Rec. 4)			
» Clearly defining transition zones that indicate			
thresholds between on- and off-leash areas			
» Incorporating park maps that clearly delineate off- a	nd		
on-leash areas within park welcome kiosks (see Rec	. 18)		
» Adding waste receptacles at key points along trails t	0		
encourage proper disposal of dog waste			
» Using strategic barriers such as fencing, planting,			
or other methods to limit dog access into restored			
sensitive natural areas (see Rec. 10, Rec. 11, Rec. 13	)		



RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
17.2 Identify opportunities for educational programs about dogs	Medium	n/a	CoD,
in natural areas to provide information on topics such as:			Volunteers
dogs and salmon spawning, sharing trails, or other ideas			
important to park users.			
17.3 Consider creating a dog area volunteer group to help	Ongoing	n/a	CoD,
develop policies and plans to support a positive approach			Volunteers
to sharing trails in the parks. The group would involve			
dog-owners and other park users and could advise on trail			
development and delineation, support monitoring and			
education, help create programs, and advise on signage.			















# A Good Example: Vancouver Park Board People Parks & Dogs Strategy

The Vancouver Park Board developed a framework for planning and designing parks that accommodate users with and without dogs. In addition to physical design guidelines, the framework provides ideas for park stewardship of off-leash dog trails through effective management, communication, and education. A volunteer dog owner group could provide peer education on topics such as etiquette, dog behaviour, and impacts of dogs on sensitive ecosystems, and also assist with off-leash trail maintenance and monitoring.

Visit www.vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/people-parks-dogs-strategy.aspx for additional information.



*Inspiration*: Signage clearly identifies transitions into / out of off-leash areas and provides code of conduct information



*Inspiration*: Strategic fencing around highly sensitive areas such as restored riparian areas or new plantings can help manage impacts



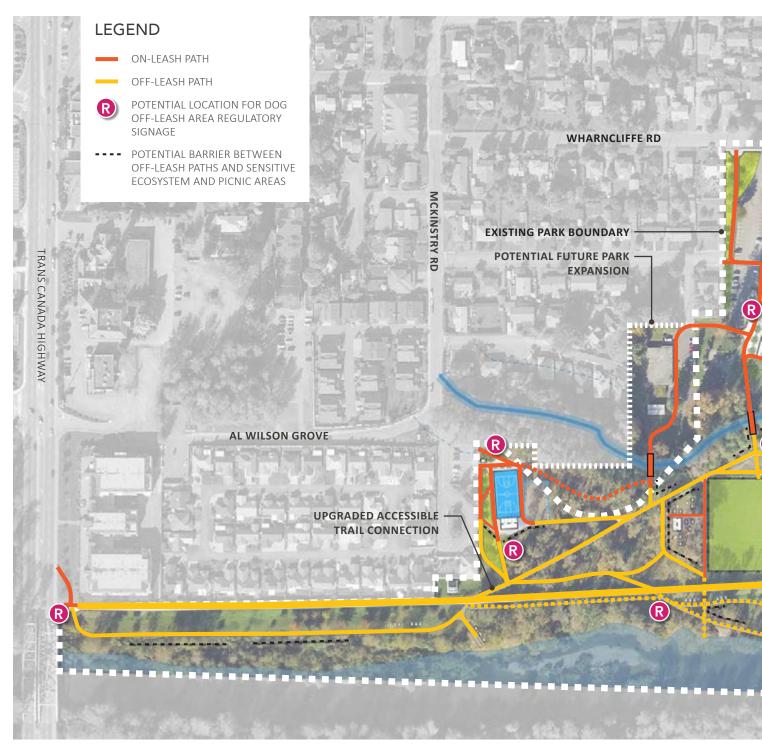
*Inspiration*: Timber bollards provide a visual cue to indicate a transition between an on-leash and off-leash zone



*Inspiration*: Pet waste stations at regular intervals along trails, especially in close proximity to sensitive habitat areas, can help encourage proper waste management



The map below provides a conceptual framework for on-and off-leash areas in McAdam and Rotary Parks. The routes shown in this concept are approximate and would be subject to refinement during implementation.



Map 22: Circulation Concept: On-Leash and Off-Leash Trails







#### 18) ADD WAYFINDING, INTERPRETIVE, AND REGULATORY SIGNAGE

#### **OVERVIEW**

Increase parks information through the strategic addition of attractive wayfinding, interpretive, and regulatory signage, including renewal of existing signs.

- ► There is little existing welcome signage at park entries or wayfinding and regulatory signage throughout the parks. Existing signs do not have a cohesive style or character.
- Existing interpretive signs will require renewal in the coming years.
- ▶ Public input suggested that maps and additional interpretive signage, including information about park history and ecological characteristics would be beneficial.
- ► A well-developed sign system is an attractive asset and facilitates wayfinding, strengthens park identity, and helps reduce potential conflicts.



Existing interpretive sign in Rotary Park

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
18.1 Develop a unified sign style that will be used for future sign upgrades in McAdam and Rotary Parks. This style should align with the City's <i>Wayfinding Strategy</i> and be consistent with other city parks. The City may wish to consider options to integrate digital technology elements (e.g., QR scanning).	Short	\$	CoD
18.2 Incorporate large-scale park entry signs to provide a clear and visible welcome to the parks at the three primary park entrances as indicated in <i>Map 23 on page 100</i> :  Wharncliffe Rd, McKinstry Rd, and the Silver Bridge.	Medium	\$\$	CoD
<ul> <li>18.3 Integrate wayfinding and regulatory signage throughout the park, as conceptually indicated in Map 23 on page 100 including:</li> <li>» Information kiosks and maps at the park entries or key locations</li> <li>» Wayfinding signs at trail intersections</li> <li>» Trail distance markers</li> <li>» Regulatory and code of conduct signs including identification of off- and on-leash trails</li> <li>» Considerations for universally accessible signs</li> </ul>	Medium	\$\$	CoD

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
18.4 In potential collaboration with volunteers, update and	Medium	\$\$	CoD,
expand interpretive information as indicated in Map 23 on			Cowichan
page 100, with the following considerations:			Tribes,
» An array of opportunities for trail users to engage in			Volunteers,
different activities or learn about the parks			Nature
» Opportunities for explorers of all ages (e.g., activity			Experts
signs that ask questions like "How many different types			
of birds can you spot in the park today?")			
» Renewal of existing signs along the Cowichan Dike Trail			
» Information about salmon, natural area restoration			
activities, pollinator plantings, and new trees			
» Incorporation of hul'qumi'num names			
» Temporary signs that support educational campaigns			
» Other ideas as identified			

## **RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10) Restore Fish Gut Alley
- 13) Integrate Pollinator-Friendly Plantings
- 16) Refine and Expand the Park Trail Network
- 21) Improve Park Safety

- Protect, Restore & Enhance Natural Areas
  Along the River
- 15) Create Welcoming Park Entries
- Clearly Define Off- and On-leash Trails for Dogs



*Inspiration*: Kiosks provide maps and key park information



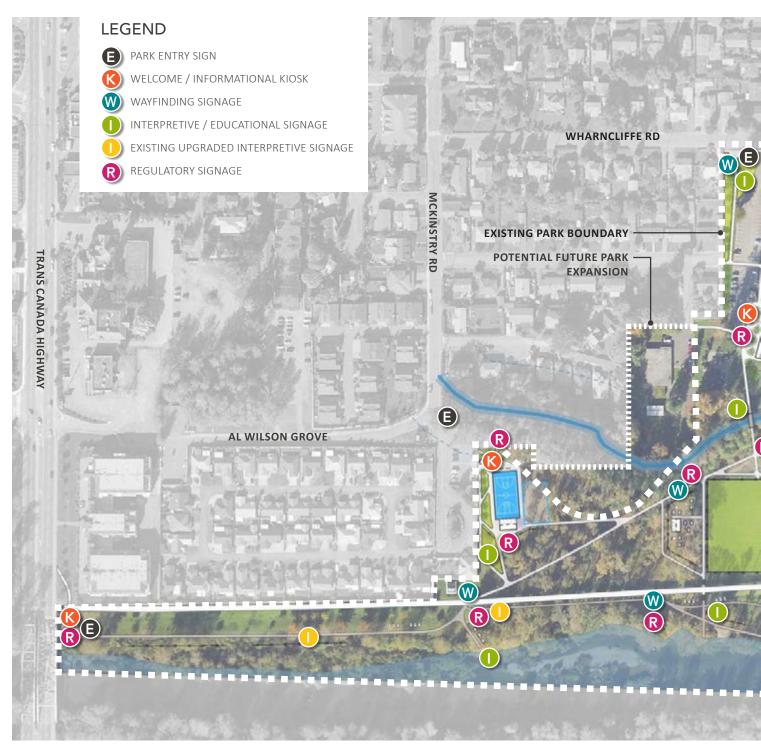
**Inspiration**: Wayfinding signs help orient park users



*Inspiration*: Educational / interpretive signage can convey information about restoration processes or sensitive habitat areas



The map below provides a conceptual framework for signage in McAdam and Rotary Parks. The locations shown in this concept are approximate and would be subject to refinement during implementation.



Map 23: Signage Concept







### ADD LIGHTING AT PARK ENTRIES, STRUCTURES, AND KEYTRAILS

### **OVERVIEW**

Consider integration of pedestrian-scale lighting in key locations that support potential use and enjoyment of the park during evening hours, while maintaining dark skies around natural areas to support habitat.

### WHY IS THIS RECOMMENDED?

- ► Currently the parks have lighting in the following locations: McAdam Park parking lot, building lighting on the existing Park Building, Rotary Field, and street lighting next to McKinstry Road parking lot.
- ▶ There is little to no lighting along trails.
- ▶ Many participants identified a potential desire to use the park during evenings in the winter when daylight hours are limited. Lighting could support community events and activities in the evenings, further activating the park.
- ▶ Maintaining dark skies around key natural areas (e.g., spawning habitat) is important.

RECON	MMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
19.1 Ad	Id lighting to the parks as conceptually illustrated in Map	Medium	\$\$\$	CoD
24	on page 104 with the following considerations:			
>>	Pedestrian-scale lighting at park entries and along			
	pathways connecting from parking areas to Rotary Field			
>>	Pedestrian-scale lighting along secondary park trails and			
	portions of the Cowichan Dike Trail around Rotary Field			
	to provide one evening walking loop			
>>	Lighting at the Silver Bridge to increase visibility as			
	identified in the Trans Canada Highway Corridor			
	Management Plan			
>>	Building-mounted lighting at the proposed McAdam			
	Park Building (see Rec. 2) and Rotary Park washroom			
	building (see Rec. 8)			
>>	Court lighting at the upgraded multi-sport court (see			
	Rec. 7) to allow for evening use			
>>	Lighting at entry kiosk signs (see Rec. 18)			
>>	Lighting design that minimizes light impacts into			
	habitat areas and adjacent residential areas			
>>	Use energy-efficient fixtures (e.g., solar or hydro			
	powered lights) and consider integration of timers			
>>	Contiguous lighting that avoids creation of dark spots			
	between lit areas			

## **RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2 Upgrade McAdam Park Building
- 8 Add a Public Washroom at Rotary Park
- 16) Refine and Expand the Park Trail Network
- Add Wayfinding, Interpretive, and Regulatory Signage
- Convert the Existing Tennis Court into a Multi-Sport Court
- 15) Create Welcoming Park Entries
- Clearly Define Off- and On-leash Trails for Dogs
- 21) Improve Park Safety



*Inspiration:* Pedestrian scale pathway lighting along select trails helps extend use into the evenings, which can be important for the winter months



*Inspiration:* Low energy, small-scale bollard lights can help to focus light on pathways to avoid light trespass on adjacent properties or sensitive habitat areas



**Inspiration:** Integration of low level lighting in benches



The map below provides a conceptual framework for lighting focus areas in McAdam and Rotary Parks. The locations shown in this concept are approximate and would be subject to refinement during implementation.



Map 24: Lighting Concept







## PROVIDE ADDITIONAL BICYCLE FACILITIES

### **OVERVIEW**

Provide end-of-trip facilities for cyclists visiting the parks to encourage alternate modes of transportation.

### WHY IS THIS RECOMMENDED?

- ▶ McAdam and Rotary Parks are destination parks accessible by bicycle with connections to the Cowichan Dike Trail and larger Somenos Trail Loop. Currently, the parks have limited facilities for cyclists, with the exception of the bike rack at the Park Building in McAdam Park.
- ► The City of Duncan's Official Community Plan encourages multi-modal transportation.
- ► Providing places for people to safely park bicycles when visiting the parks encourages active transportation.



Existing bike rack at McAdam Park. No other cycling amenities are located in the parks

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
20.1 Consider secure bike parking and amenities at the	Short	\$	CoD
following locations:			
» Bike rack at McKinstry Road park entrance in association			
with park entrance upgrades (see Rec. 15)			
» Bike rack at the proposed McAdam Park playground			
(see Rec. 4)			
» Covered bike parking with potential electric charging			
at McAdam Park building (see Rec. 2) as part of the			
structure			

## **RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2 Upgrade McAdam Park Building
- 4) Develop a New McAdam Park Play Area
- 15) Create Welcoming Park Entries
- 16) Refine and Expand the Park Trail Network



**Inspiration:** A bike rack with electric charging supports both regular and electric bikes

### 5.3.5 MANAGEMENT



Map 25: Management Diagram



## **LEGEND**



IMPROVE PARK SAFETY \*Not shown on map, applies to entire area



DIVERSIFY PARK PROGRAMS AND FOSTER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS \*Not shown on map, applies to entire area



CONSIDER PARK EXPANSION





## **IMPROVE PARK SAFETY**

### **OVERVIEW**

Develop future projects following CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles and implement strategies and programs to increase feeling of safety for park users.

### WHY IS THIS RECOMMENDED?

- ▶ A key concern identified in all phases of engagement was park safety. Concerns about activities including littering, vandalism, drug use, and illegal camping negatively affects visitors' perceptions about safety and impacts their desire to use the parks.
- ► McAdam and Rotary Parks are currently the only location within Duncan that permits temporary overnight accommodation in a City park.
- ▶ Literature recommends that the most effective safety strategies include increasing "eyes on the park" by encouraging park use and supporting passive surveillance When a large number of people use parks in a positive way, sense of security is typically increased.



Graffiti on pump station in Rotary Park

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
21.1 Regularly review and update the <i>Rules for Temporary</i> Overnight Shelters for Parks in Duncan to reflect park updates and current needs. Amend permissible temporary sheltering locations as improvements are implemented (for example, development of a playground in McAdam Park will require amendment to temporary sheltering locations).	Ongoing	n/a	CoD
<ul> <li>21.2 Plan, design, and manage park spaces following CPTED principles, including:</li> <li>» Visibility and Natural Surveillance: Encourage "eyes on the park" by situating activity areas in line of sight of nearby houses or high use activity zones. Locate washroom buildings beside other activities and entries. Maintain vegetation to provide clear sight lines along trails and avoid solid walls, fences, or dense plantings close to major routes.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	per project	CoD
<ul> <li>Layout and Legibility: Create a park layout that is easily understood by first-time users, connect pathways with key destinations, and provide signage and wayfinding.</li> <li>Lighting: Integrate lighting strategically to provide clear evening use zones and avoid dark areas within these zones (see Rec. 19).</li> </ul>			

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
21.3 Consider increasing regular maintenance (through staffing or volunteer programs) to remove graffiti, garbage, and other visible evidence of negative activities. Literature suggests that visible evidence of damage, graffiti, and garbage will lead to an increase in similar negative activity.	Ongoing	\$	CoD, Volunteers
21.4 Promote park visitors reporting illegal or undesirable activities in public parks.	Ongoing	n/a	CoD
21.5 Consider, in coordination with RCMP, addition of a safety call box in both McAdam and Rotary Parks.	Long	\$	CoD, RCMP
21.6 Consider development of a park artist or naturalist program, potentially with space allocation in the upgraded McAdam Park Building (see Rec. 2), in order to provide more regular activity within the parks.	Long	TBD	CoD, CVRD
21.7 Support organizations interesting in coordinating park pick-ups or vegetation maintenance.	Ongoing	TBD	CoD, CVRD, Not-for-Profits

# **RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS**



**16)** Refine and Expand the Park Trail Network



Add Lighting at Park Entries, Structures, and Kev Trails Key Trails



Diversify Park Programs and Foster Community Partnerships





## **DIVERSIFY PARK PROGRAMS AND FOSTER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

### **OVERVIEW**

Explore opportunities to diversify programs offered within the parks and build partnerships with local organizations that support the Vision of McAdam and Rotary Parks.

### WHY IS THIS RECOMMENDED?

- ▶ Programs currently using the parks are primarily focused on organized sports.
- ▶ Local residents and organizations have expressed interest in developing partnerships to support future park improvements, foster stewardship, and encourage environmental education.
- ▶ Increasing activity in the park supports park safety (see Rec. 21).

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
22.1 Work with the CVRD to identify potential activities and programs at the parks and the updates required to support them. Ideas identified through this process included: photography classes, art in the park, seniorsfocused exercise or activity classes, yoga / boot-camp, concerts and performances, movies in the park, school learning programs, environmental stewardship activities, etc.	Ongoing	n/a	CVRD, CoD
22.2 Work with community organizations to support future park projects, foster park stewardship, encourage environmental education, and undertake restoration of natural park areas.	Ongoing	n/a	CoD, Volunteers, Not-for- Profits, Cowichan Tribes

### RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9 Manage and Grow the Tree Canopy
- 10) Restore Fish Gut Alley
- Protect, Restore & Enhance Natural Areas Along the River
- 13) Integrate Pollinator-Friendly Plantings
- 16) Refine and Expand the Park Trail Network
- (17) Clearly Define Off- and On-leash Trails for Dogs
- Add Lighting at Park Entries, Structures, and Key Trails
- 21) Improve Park Safety



Organized volunteer programs can make a significant difference in the implementation of park enhancements



## 23) CONSIDER PARK EXPANSION

### **OVERVIEW**

Explore opportunities to expand the park boundaries through acquisition of adjacent lands that align with the Vision and Guiding Principles for the parks.

## WHY IS THIS RECOMMENDED

- ▶ Opportunities may exist to explore acquisition of adjacent lands to expand park boundaries.
- ▶ Converting nearby sites to park land could help expand the recreational possibilities within the parks and protect sensitive ecosystems.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COST RANGE	PARTIES
23.1 Consult with SD#79 on the potential acquisition of the	Short	n/a	CoD, SD#78
former school site (see Map 25), considering:			
» Potential retrofit of the existing school building to			
accommodate park uses (washrooms, change rooms,			
meeting rooms / multi-purpose spaces, etc.) and			
neighbourhood hub activities (e.g., seniors centre,			
youth activity hub, community hub).			
» Additional protection along Fish Gut Alley.			
» Potential for a trail connection from the existing SD#79			
site to the tennis court area and McKinstry Road park			
entry, helping expand the looped trail network.			
23.2 Continue to evaluate potential adjacent land acquisition	Ongoing	n/a	CoD
opportunities from an environmental, social, and			
recreational perspective.			
23.3 If land is identified for addition to the parks, undertake	Long	TBD	CoD, Partners
acquisition, planning, design, and upgrades to integrate			as Identified
new spaces into the overall park area.			

## **RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS**



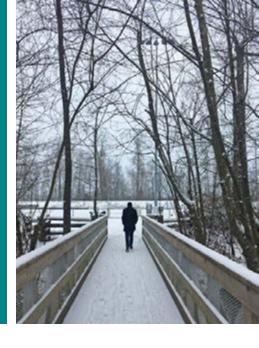
Refine and Expand the Park Trail Network



Diversify Park Programs and Foster Community Partnerships







# 6 | IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the ideas and directions in the McAdam and Rotary Parks Master Plan will occur over time as opportunities and funds are available. This summary provides a recommended phased approach to implementing actions. The City should review and update implementation planning regularly to respond to changing opportunities and community needs.

### 6.1 OVERVIEW

The implementation summary organizes the actions identified in *Section 5* into recommended phases. The plan is a long-term outlook and it is recognized that the parks and surrounding areas will continue to evolve, so it will be necessary to be flexible and adapt to new opportunities and challenges that arise.

The actions recommended in this plan will need to be prioritized within the City's overall planning which will affect how quickly implementation can occur.

In addition, some actions may not be implemented until such a time that social disorder and negative activity in the parks and City overall declines. While the City is responsible for overseeing the Master Plan, successful implementation will require coordination between several groups including, but not limited to:

- ► City of Duncan Mayor and Council;
- City Departments (Planning, Engineering, Operations, Financial Services);
- ► Cowichan Valley Regional District;
- ► Cowichan Tribes:
- ► Municipality of North Cowichan
- ▶ Potential Partners and Volunteer Groups;
- ► Stakeholders; and
- ► Community Members.



## 6.2 FUNDING STRATEGIES

Implementation of the Master Plan recommendations will likely be achieved through a combination of funding sources. Availability of funding will influence the extent and content of each phase of park improvements.

There are several possible sources of funding that could help implement the recommended actions in this plan. *Table 3* provides a brief description of strategies that could be employed.

Table 3: Potential Funding Sources

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCE	KEY RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
1. Capital: Property tax is the City's principle source of revenue for providing park services. Reviewing tax rate allocations may warrant consideration to support the City's parks system.	ALL RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
<b>2. Government and NGO Funding:</b> The Province of BC, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Government of	4 DEVELOP A NEW MCADAM PARK PLAY AREA
Canada, and other government and non-government organizations offer grants that provide capital or planning	9 MANAGE AND GROW THE TREE CANOPY
funds. These funds could be harnessed for both further design development or implementation of key capital projects that enhance the environment, boost the economy, or increase recreation or transportation assets.	10) RESTORE FISH GUT ALLEY
	PROTECT, RESTORE & ENHANCE NATURAL AREAS ALONG THE RIVER
	13) INTEGRATE POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY PLANTINGS
	REFINE AND EXPAND THE PARK TRAIL NETWORK
	DIVERSIFY PARK PROGRAMS AND FOSTER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
<b>3. Donations &amp; Fundraising:</b> Corporations, organizations, and individuals are often willing to contribute to community	1 ENHANCE THE EXISTING MCADAM FIELDS
assets either through capital or in-kind donation of materials, equipment, or time. An organized donation	2 UPGRADE MCADAM PARK BUILDING
campaign helps harness these opportunities and ensures the community sees results.	4 DEVELOP A NEW MCADAM PARK PLAY AREA
	CONVERT THE EXISTING TENNIS COURT INTO A MULTI-SPORT COURT
	9 MANAGE AND GROW THE TREE CANOPY
	consider park expansion

## POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCE **KEY RECOMMENDED ACTIONS** 4. Partnerships: Partnerships with other groups and ENHANCE THE EXISTING MCADAM FIELDS organizations could help implement key recommendations that may be challenging for the City to complete UPGRADE MCADAM PARK BUILDING independently. ENHANCE THE EXISTING ROTARY FIELD RESTORE FISH GUT ALLEY PROTECT, RESTORE & ENHANCE NATURAL AREAS ALONG THE RIVER INTEGRATE POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY **PLANTINGS** CLEARLY DEFINE OFF- AND ON-LEASH TRAILS FOR DOGS ADD WAYFINDING, INTERPRETIVE, AND REGULATORY SIGNAGE IMPROVE PARK SAFETY DIVERSIFY PARK PROGRAMS AND FOSTER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS CONSIDER PARK EXPANSION **5. User Fees:** User fees (collected by the CVRD) provide ENHANCE THE EXISTING MCADAM FIELDS funding to assist with the costs of operating and maintaining park facilities. Review of user fees for field UPGRADE MCADAM PARK BUILDING or building rentals may warrant consideration to support successful operation of the parks. 5 ENHANCE THE EXISTING ROTARY FIELD



### 6.3 RECOMMENDED ACTION SUMMARY

The achievement of the Vision for McAdam and Rotary Parks will be supported by the successful completion of recommended actions that result in early, visible improvements and support sustained success.

A flexible approach to implementation will be required as circumstances may expedite or delay time frames. All recommended actions will be at the discretion of Council based on overall community considerations. All the actions identified to date are important to the community, and should opportunity arise, consideration to complete an action sooner than planned may be warranted.

Actions are organized into three time frames:

- ▶ **Short-term actions** are recommended to be completed in the next 5 years. These actions typically garnered public support and will have an immediate benefit for park users. In some cases, short-term actions must be completed prior to medium- and long-term actions.
- ▶ Medium-term actions are recommended for the 5- to 10-year time frame and will require a deeper investment in the parks. Several of these projects will require strategic planning and procurement of funding. In some cases, implementation of medium-term actions may be delayed until social disorder impacts are reduced in the parks and in the City overall.
- ▶ Long-term actions are recommended for consideration beyond 10 years and have lower priority or more complicating factors that may delay implementation. These include major infrastructure projects. It is anticipated that the Master Plan will be updated in the long-term to confirm the needs of the community at that time and the recommended projects will be updated to reflect these needs.
- ▶ Ongoing actions include monitoring and maintenance activities and improvements that will be sustained over time. Funding for these projects will need to be considered in ongoing annual budgets for maintenance and operations.

#### Notes:

- 1. Cost ranges are based on general assumptions using historical cost data from similar projects and are provided to assist with long-range budget planning.
- 2. Costs for infrastructure can vary widely depending on site constraints, design, market forces and other variables.
- 3. The identification of short-, medium-, and long-term actions are provided for information. It is anticipated that priorities and time frames will be evaluated regularly based on community-wide budget considerations, community need, and opportunity.

#### **Cost Range Breakdowns:**

▶ \$: \$0 to \$50,000

▶ \$\$: \$50,000 to \$100,000

**▶ \$\$\$:** \$100,000 to \$250,000

**\$\$\$\$:** \$250,000 to \$500,000

**\$\$\$\$\$:** \$500,000 +

#### **Party Abbreviations:**

- ► CoD = City of Duncan
- ► CVRD = Cowichan Valley Regional District
- ► **CWB** = Cowichan Watershed Board
- ► **DFO** = Department of Fisheries & Oceans
- ► **SD#78** = School District #78
- ► VITH = Vancouver Island Trout Hatchery

Table 4: Recommended Short-Term Actions Summary (0-5 years)

		PAGE	COST	
REF.#	ACTION	#	RANGE*	PARTIES
1.1	Add a range of spectator seating options at key locations near McAdam Field, while maintaining flexibility to accommodate different field configurations. Seating should be designed with overnight sheltering considerations in mind.	56	\$	CoD, CVRD
3.1	Undertake an arborist assessment to determine health/safety of existing McAdam Park trees and receive recommendations for ongoing protection and management (coordinate with other tree assessments – see <i>Rec. 9</i> ).	60	\$	CoD
4.1	Develop, with input from children and youth, a detailed design for a new playground in McAdam Park that provides a range of play opportunities for children of all ages.	62	\$\$	CoD, Children & Youth
4.2	Work with stakeholders and volunteers to identify strategies to support safety at the McAdam Park play area such as site checks, clean-up days, and passive or active surveillance.	62	\$	CoD, Volunteers
4.3	Build the new McAdam Park playground.	62	\$\$\$	CoD
5.1	Add pedestrian-scale lighting to connect Rotary Field to adjacent park entrances at McKinstry Rd and Wharncliffe Rd (see <i>Rec. 19</i> ).	66	\$\$	CoD
7.1	Convert the existing court to an improved multi-sport court, with considerations for basketball, mini-soccer, floor hockey, tennis, and/or pickleball.	68	\$\$	CoD
7.2	Consider providing a "play box" near the court area that holds equipment such as basketballs, rackets, frisbees, skipping ropes, kites, games, or other toys.	68	\$	CVRD, Live 5-2-1-0
9.1	Undertake an arborist tree inventory and assessment of existing park trees, including a review of tree health and potential risks and recommendations for management.	74	\$	CoD
9.3	Undertake tree management activities identified in the tree assessment such as removal or pruning of compromised trees.	74	\$\$	CoD
9.5	Develop a planting strategy for natural area regeneration in the parks.	75	\$	CoD
10.1	Collaborate with Cowichan Tribes fisheries biologists and local experts to develop a detailed approach to improving spawning conditions in Fish Gut Alley.	77	\$\$	CoD, DFO, Cowichan Tribes, CWB, Not-for- Profits, Local Experts
10.2	Work with the Cowichan Tribes hatchery to explore potential addition of adult chum into Fish Gut Alley to jump-start the run and turn over the gravel in preparation for future runs once access is improved.	77	\$	CoD, DFO, Cowichan Tribes, CWB, Not-for- Profits

<sup>\* \$ = \$0</sup> to \$50,000 \$\$ = \$50,000 to \$100,000 \$\$\$ = \$100,000 to \$250,000 \$\$\$\$ = \$250,000 to \$500,000 \$\$\$\$ = \$500,000 +

REF.#	ACTION	PAGE #	COST RANGE*	PARTIES
10.3	Add new interpretive signage at the Fish Gut Alley bridge crossings to provide information about the channel's history and ecology (see <i>Rec. 18</i> ).	77	\$	CoD, Cowichan Tribes, CWB, Not- for-Profits
11.1	In partnership with Cowichan Tribes and other organizations, develop a Riparian Management Plan for the banks of the Cowichan River within the parks.	78	\$	CoD, Cowichan Tribes, CWB, Not- for-Profits, CVRD, DFO
12.1	Improve existing pathway connections on both sides of the Cowichan Dike Trail for improved accessibility to the river area.	81	\$	CoD
13.1	Work with City staff and volunteers to identify places for pollinator-friendly planting such as (see <i>Map 10</i> ).	82	n/a	CoD, Volunteers
13.2	Add hose-bibs and/or irrigation connections at select planting locations to support watering during establishment and summer.	82	\$	CoD
13.3	Create a partnership with a volunteer organization to support development and long-term maintenance of a pollinator pilot project. Once a partnership is established, undertake planting development.	82	\$	CoD, Volunteers
14.1	Work with SD#79 to consider parking at the existing adjacent school site.	86	n/a	CoD, SD#78
15.1	Develop an accessible park entrance ramp from the Trans Canada Highway to the Cowichan Dike Trail in Rotary Park at the west park entrance (near the Silver Bridge) - see <i>Map 21</i> .	88	S	CoD
16.1	As shown on <i>Map 17 on page 84</i> , develop a new accessible trail through McAdam Park Memorial Grove to connect the future play area (see <i>Rec. 4</i> ) and create a continuous walking loop.	91	S	CoD
17.1	As shown on <i>Map 22 on page 96</i> , clearly mark the trails network to inform all park users about off- and on-leash areas.	93	\$\$	CoD, Volunteers
18.1	Develop a unified sign style that will be used for future sign upgrades in McAdam and Rotary Parks. This style should align with the City's Wayfinding Strategy and be consistent with other city parks. The City may wish to consider options to integrate digital technology elements (e.g., QR scanning).	98	\$	CoD
20.1	Consider secure bike parking and amenities at key park locations.	106	\$	CoD
23.1	Consult with SD#79 on the potential acquisition of the former school site (see <i>Map 25</i> ).	111	n/a	CoD, SD#78

<sup>\* \$ = \$0</sup> to \$50,000 \$\$ = \$50,000 to \$100,000 \$\$\$ = \$100,000 to \$250,000 \$\$\$\$ = \$250,000 to \$500,000 \$\$\$\$\$ = \$500,000 +

Table 5: Recommended Medium-Term Actions Summary (5-10 years)

		PAGE	COST	
REF.#	ACTION	#	RANGE*	PARTIES
2.1	Working with stakeholders, develop a design, cost estimate, and	58	\$\$	CoD, User
	funding arrangement to replace the existing Park Building with a new			Groups
	building.			
3.2	Develop a landscape plan for the area around the new Park Building	60	\$\$	CoD, User
	(in conjunction with the Park Building design) and Memorial Grove.			Groups
6.1	Add small-scale recreation amenities adjacent to Rotary Field.	67	\$	CoD
8.1	Consider developing a small-scale washroom building near the courts area at Rotary Park.	70	\$\$\$	CoD
12.2	Incorporate "natural" seating opportunities along the riverfront trail	81	\$	CoD
	including logs, boulders, and rustic wood seats, recognizing the area			
	is subject to seasonal flooding.			
12.3	Sign up to four river access points and encourage shoreline	81	\$	CoD
	restoration in other areas to limit erosion. Consider specifying access			
	points where dog use is permitted.			
14.2	Work with the Vancouver Island Trout Hatchery to consider public	86	n/a	CoD, VITH
	event parking and/or weekend overflow parking at the hatchery			
	parking lot.			
14.3	When parking lot upgrades are required at the Wharncliffe and	86	\$\$\$	CoD
	McKinstry Rd parking lots, undertake aesthetic and functional			
	improvements.			
14.4	Create a small new parking area at the south end of Beech Ave. to	86	\$\$	CoD
	provide pull-in stalls (approx. 4 stalls).			
15.2	Upgrade the McAdam Park entry to incorporate elements outlined in Map 19.	89	\$\$	CoD
15.3	Upgrade the Rotary Park entry at McKinstry Rd to incorporate	89	SS	CoD
	elements shown in <i>Map 20</i> .			
16.2	As shown on <i>Map 17 on page 84</i> , upgrade and add accessible ramp	91	\$\$	CoD
	connections on both sides of the Cowichan Dike Trail in Rotary Park			
	(two accessible connections on each side) including accessible			
	slopes, landings, surfacing, and handrails as feasible (recognizing the			
	south side of the dike may be affected by seasonal flooding).			
16.3	As shown on Map 17 on page 84, address trail flooding issues at the	91	\$\$	CoD
	east end by adding a raised bridge or boardwalk. Design will need			
	to withstand winter flooding, avoid erosion, and minimize potential			
	habitat impacts.			
17.2	Identify opportunities for educational programs about dogs in	94	n/a	CoD,
	natural areas to provide information on topics such as: dogs and			Volunteers
	salmon spawning, sharing trails, or other ideas important to park			
	users.			

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REF.#	ACTION	PAGE #	COST RANGE*	PARTIES
18.2	Incorporate large-scale park entry signs to provide a clear and visible welcome to the parks at the three primary park entrances as indicated in <i>Map 23 on page 100</i> : Wharncliffe Rd, McKinstry Rd, and the Silver Bridge.	98	\$\$	CoD
18.3	Integrate wayfinding and regulatory signage throughout the park, as conceptually indicated in <i>Map 23 on page 100</i> .	98	\$\$	CoD
18.4	In potential collaboration with volunteers, update and expand interpretive information as indicated in <i>Map 23 on page 100</i> .	99	\$\$	CoD, Volunteers, Nature Experts
19.1	Add lighting to the parks as conceptually illustrated in <i>Map 24 on page 104</i> .	102	\$\$\$	CoD

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Table 6: Recommended Long-Term Actions Summary (10+ years)

REF.#	ACTION	PAGE #	COST RANGE*	PARTIES	
1.4	Replace McAdam Field fencing at end of life. At that time, create a more attractive park perimeter.	56	\$\$	CoD	
2.2	At the end of its lifespan, remove the existing McAdam Park Building and build the new facility.	58	\$\$\$\$\$	CoD, User Groups	
3.3	Complete landscape upgrades for area around the new McAdam Park Building.	60	\$\$\$	CoD	
6.2	Consider a picnic shelter adjacent to Rotary Field to provide gathering space or small group rentals. Future implementation would be dependent on improved social conditions in the park.	67	\$\$\$	CoD	
7.3	As court use increases, consider integration of a second court to the east of the existing court.	68	\$\$\$	CoD	
7.4	Consider addition of a covered structure to one or both of courts to support all-season use.	68	\$\$\$	CoD	
12.4	Consider long-term integration of a viewpoint along the Cowichan Dike Trail in Rotary Park that provides views to the river, but is constructed outside the floodplain area.	81	\$\$\$	CoD	
16.4	As shown on <i>Map 17 on page 84</i> , explore potential development of "Discovery Nature Paths" that wind through tree areas and connect visitors with natural areas. Encourage park users to "stay on the path" to limit impacts to habitat. Plan and design trails and crossings to ensure winter flows are not impeded and to avoid erosion.	91	\$	CoD, Volunteers	
21.5	Consider, in coordination with RCMP, addition of a safety call box in both McAdam and Rotary Parks.	109	\$	CoD	
21.6	Consider development of a park artist or naturalist program, potentially with space allocation in the upgraded McAdam Park Building (see <i>Rec. 2</i> ), in order to provide more regular activity within the parks.	109	TBD	CoD, CVRD	
23.3	If land is identified for addition to the parks, undertake acquisition, planning, design, and upgrades to integrate new spaces into the overall park area.	111	TBD	CoD, Partners as Identified	

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Table 7: Recommended Ongoing Actions Summary

REF.#	ACTION	PAGE #	COST RANGE*	PARTIES
1.2	Work with field user groups to identify partnerships for McAdam Field upgrades over time.	56	\$	CoD, CVRD, User Groups
1.3	Encourage use of McAdam Field for a range of suitable activities. Ideas suggested as having potential compatibility include: movies in the park, concerts in the park, art activities, exercise classes, seniors programs, bocce, ultimate frisbee, and school programs.	56	\$\$\$	CoD, User Groups
5.2	Encourage use of Rotary Field for a range of suitable activities. Ideas suggested as having potential compatibility include: movies in the park, concerts in the park, art activities, exercise classes, and seniors programs.		n/a	CVRD
9.2	Utilize the tree assessment for planning and siting new park features and amenities to protect tree roots and canopies.	74	n/a	CoD
9.4	Integrate new tree planting with all proposed park upgrades, prioritizing native species and striving to increase species diversity.	74	per project	CoD
9.6	Implement recommendations from the planting strategy incrementally.	75	\$\$	CoD, Volunteers
11.2	Develop volunteer opportunities, potentially in partnership with other organizations, to support restoration days with activities like invasive species removal, creation of new native planting areas, clean-up of litter, etc.	79	n/a	CoD, Volunteers
11.3	Undertake restoration projects incrementally with evaluation of each program to support continuous improvement of the restoration approach.	79	\$\$	CoD, Volunteers
11.4	Incorporate educational and regulatory signage to provide information about restoration efforts.	79	per project	CoD
13.4	Continue to add pollinator gardens as resources and management agreements allow.	83	\$	CoD, Volunteers
17.3	Consider creating a dog area volunteer group to help develop policies and plans to support a positive approach to sharing trails in the parks. The group would involve dog-owners and other park users and could advise on trail development and delineation, support monitoring and education, help create programs, and advise on signage.	94	n/a	CoD, Volunteers
21.1	Regularly review and update the Rules for Temporary Overnight Shelters for Parks in Duncan to reflect park updates and current needs. Amend permissible temporary sheltering locations as improvements are implemented (for example, development of a playground in McAdam Park will require amendment to temporary sheltering locations).	108	n/a	CoD

<sup>\* \$ = \$0</sup> to \$50,000 \$\$ = \$50,000 to \$100,000 \$\$\$ = \$100,000 to \$250,000 \$\$\$\$ = \$250,000 to \$500,000 \$\$\$\$ = \$500,000 +

REF.#	ACTION	PAGE #	COST RANGE*	PARTIES
21.2	Plan, design, and manage park spaces following CPTED principles.	108	per project	CoD
21.3	Consider increasing regular maintenance (through staffing or volunteer programs) to remove graffiti, garbage, and other visible evidence of negative activities. Literature suggests that visible evidence of damage, graffiti, and garbage will lead to an increase in similar negative activity.	109	\$	CoD, Volunteers
21.4	Promote park visitors reporting illegal or undesirable activities in public parks.	109	n/a	CoD
21.7	Support organizations interesting in coordinating park pick-ups or vegetation maintenance.	109	TBD	CoD, CVRD, Not-for- Profits
22.1	Work with the CVRD to identify potential activities and programs at the parks and the updates required to support them. Ideas identified through this process included: photography classes, art in the park, seniors-focused exercise or activity classes, yoga / boot-camp, concerts and performances, movies in the park, school learning programs, environmental stewardship activities, etc.	110	n/a	CVRD, CoD
22.2	Work with community organizations to support future park projects, foster park stewardship, encourage environmental education, and undertake restoration of natural park areas.	110	n/a	CoD, Volunteers, Not-for- Profits, Cowichan Tribes
23.2	Continue to evaluate potential adjacent land acquisition opportunities from an environmental, social, and recreational perspective.	111	n/a	CoD

<sup>\* \$ = \$0</sup> to \$50,000 \$\$ = \$50,000 to \$100,000 \$\$\$ = \$100,000 to \$250,000 \$\$\$\$ = \$250,000 to \$500,000 \$\$\$\$ = \$500,000 +







# **APPENDICES**

**Appendix A: Relevant Documents** 

**Appendix B: Demand Analysis** 



# Appendix A: Relevant Documents

# Integrated Community Sustainability Plan

CITY OF DUNCAN (2013)

The Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) is an overarching guide to help the City move towards a successful and sustainable future. It provides guidance to all plans within the City of Duncan and outlines desired outcomes for a range of community aspects including:

- ▶ Recreation and Leisure envisioning a future with an extensive trail network; parks and green spaces that offer places for rest, play, and growing food; recreation services that meet the needs of all ages, abilities, and incomes; and a healthy and active community
- ► Aquatic and Terrestrial Natural Systems —
  envisioning a future with water protection;
  protection and enhancement of environmental
  integrity and biological diversity; flood resiliency;
  increased greening; biological diversity; protection
  of old trees; and green corridors throughout the
  community.

The McAdam and Rotary Parks Master Plan must align with the ICSP.

# Official Community Plan, Bylaw 2030

CITY OF DUNCAN (2007)

The McAdam & Rotary Parks Master Plan will adhere to the policies outlined in the Official Community Plan (OCP) and will support the Duncan community's vision "to be one of the most livable small towns in Canada."

Refer to *Section 2.3.6* for specific relevant objectives and policies.

# City of Duncan Urban Forestry Strategy

CITY OF DUNCAN (2010)

The Urban Forestry Strategy provides a vision and plan for the protection, management, and restoration of Duncan's urban forests and natural areas. Key recommendations include:

- ► Promote care, health, and longevity of street/park trees.
- ► Increase the number of street/park trees and species diversity.
- ► Manage the risk of street/park trees to the public, property and infrastructure.
- ▶ Improve aesthetic values of street/park trees.
- ▶ Develop park management plans.
- ► Identify environmentally sensitive areas relating to unique ecosystems, wildlife habitat, riparian habitat, to help support tree retention.
- ► Manage natural areas to maintain ecological integrity and natural processes.
- ▶ Develop specific site prescriptions to manage natural stands in areas associated with risk (e.g., floodplains, slope instability, fire hazard or invasive species).
- ► Encourage preservation and restoration of natural forest ecosystems including Garry Oak, riparian, and forest communities.

The document also includes specific recommendations for management of Rotary Park's forest canopy:

- ► Infill planting with Western Red Cedar, Sitka Spruce and Grand Fir in higher areas where flooding is not expected.
- ▶ Pacific Willow and Black Cottonwood Trees should be planted in more open areas (where light is abundant) on the floodplain benches.

## Wayfinding Signage Strategy

CITY OF DUNCAN (2013)

The City's Wayfinding Signage Strategy provides guidance to directional and identification elements for visitors and residents. A number of sign types and recommendations from the strategy would be applicable to McAdam and Rotary Parks, including:

- ► Amenity Identification Signs
- ► Information Kiosks
- ▶ Directional Signs
- ► Park and Park Bylaw Regulation Signs
- ► Interpretive Signs

# Trans Canada Highway Corridor Management Plan: Boys Rd to Beverly St

CITY OF DUNCAN & MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH COWICHAN (2014)

The Plan provides recommendations for improvements to the Trans Canada Highway through the communities. Relevant recommendations include:

- ► A separated pedestrian and cycling bridge across the Cowichan River adjacent to the existing Cowichan River Bridge (Silver Bridge).
- ▶ Improvements to the existing pathway connection beneath the Silver Bridge to connect the Cowichan Dike Trail and trails to the west. The plan proposes lighting beneath the bridge to increase safety and make the path official, recognizing periodic closures may be necessary during seasonal flooding.
- Addition of a pedestrian activated signalized crosswalk at the Cowichan Way intersection.
- ► Consideration for a 3 m wide multi-use pathway along the east side of the Trans Canada Highway from Boys Rd to Cowichan Way to improve pedestrian and cyclist access.
- ► Safety median fencing from Boys Rd to Cowichan Way to reduce incidences of jaywalking.

# Lower Cowichan / Koksilah River Integrated Flood Management Plan (2009)

CVRD, COWICHAN TRIBES, CITY OF DUNCAN, MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH COWICHAN (2013)

In 2009, the CVRD, in partnership with Cowichan Tribes, City of Duncan, and Municipality of North Cowichan, updated mapping for the Lower Cowichan-Koksilah River floodplain. McAdam and Rotary Parks were within the study limits.

The study identified that the Cowichan Dike through Rotary Park may require future updates to accommodate the 200-year flood events. It also recommended selective vegetation removal along the dike for safety — with tree planting to compensate and ensure no net impacts from vegetation removals.

In addition, the plan recommended improvements to Fish Gut Alley that falls within the park to increase productivity that has been diminished over time due to poor base flows.

## Cowichan Basin Watershed Management Plan

CVRD, BC MOE, DFO, CATALYST, COWICHAN TRIBES, PSC (2007)

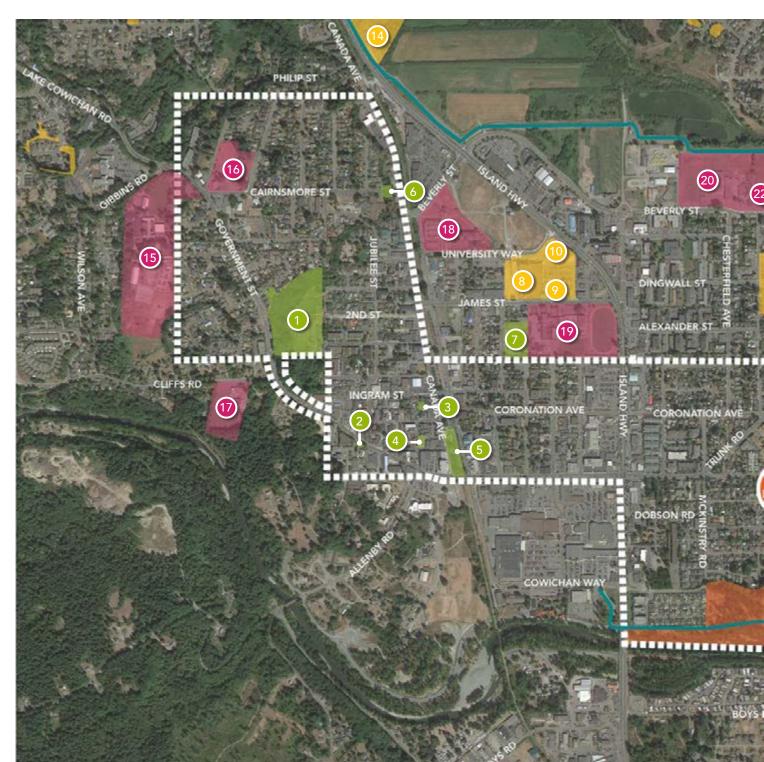
In 2007, a group of partners came together to develop the Watershed Management Plan to prepare responses to the effects of climate change, and plan proactively for current and future water needs in the Basin. The plan led to the formation of the Cowichan Watershed Board to support the implementation of the 2007 Management Plan.

The plan provides a vision to conserve and manage water to ensure reliable supplies for human use, thriving ecosystems, and a healthy economy and includes recommendations around the protection of riparian habitat areas and trees in support of watershed health.



# Appendix B: Demand Analysis

A review of other nearby parks, recreation, and educational destinations was compiled to better understand how McAdam and Rotary Parks fit within the region's recreation system and plan for park services that complement this larger system. *Map 26* provides an overview of nearby destinations and a brief summary is provided on subsequent pages.



Map 26: Key Parks, Recreation & Educational Destinations in the Surrounding Region



### OTHER DUNCAN PARKS

- 1 CENTENNIAL PARK
- 2) CHINA GARDENS PARK
- 3 CITY HALL PLAZA
- 4 STATION STREET PARK
- 5 CHARLES HOEY V.C. MEMORIAL PARK
- 6 HEIWA PARK
- 7) KIN PARK (in partnership with MNC)

### NORTH COWICHAN PARKS & REC

- 8 ISLAND SAVINGS CENTRE (CVRD facility)
- 9 COWICHAN AQUATIC CENTRE (in partnership with CoD)
- 10) X-TREME SKATE PARK
- COWICHAN SPORTSPLEX
- 12) SOMENOS CREEK DOG PARK
- 13) ART MANN PARK
- somenos marsh

## **EDUCATIONAL SITES**

- 15) QUEEN MARGARET'S SCHOOL
- 16) COWICHAN VALLEY OPEN LEARNING CO-OP
- KHOWHEMUN ELEMENTARY
- VIU COWICHAN CAMPUS
- 19 COWICHAN SECONDARY
- QUAMICHAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
- 21) DUNCAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
- 22) ALEXANDER ELEMENTARY
- SOMENOS TRAIL LOOP



#### CITY OF DUNCAN PARKS

The City of Duncan has 9 civic parks including McAdam and Rotary Parks. The below summary provides an overview of the services and amenities in these parks.

# 1 CENTENNIAL PARK

Distance from McAdam/Rotary = 2.4 km

- » Spray park
- » Adventure playground
- » Sport courts including tennis, basketball, pickle ball, and street hockey
- » Exercise equipment
- » Accessible walking and running trails
- » Picnic areas and benches
- » Lawn bowling
- » Open lawn areas
- » Planting areas
- » Public washrooms
- » Public art
- » Jubilee Gardens community garden and cobb oven
- » Public washrooms

# 2 CHINA GARDENS PARK

Distance from McAdam/Rotary = 2.2 km

- » Statue of Confucius to commemorate Duncan's Historic Chinatown
- » Benches
- » Planting
- » Public art and interpretive signage

## 3 CITY HALL PLAZA

Distance from McAdam/Rotary = 1.6 km

- » Benches
- » Bandstand
- » Tree planting
- » Paved plaza for civic events including the Duncan Farmers Market

## 4) STATION STREET PARK

Distance from McAdam/Rotary = 1.5 km

- » Picnic tables
- » Tree planting
- » Open lawn area
- » Public art including a mural, totems, and interpretive signage

# 5) CHARLES HOEY V.C. MEMORIAL PARK Distance from McAdam/Rotary = 1.4 km

- » Memorial Park to commemorate Major Charles Ferguson Hoey, VC, a Duncan resident who was killed while serving in WWII
- » Cenotaph
- » Historic CNR Caboose adjacent to the Cowichan Valley Museum
- » Benches
- » Planting
- » Public art including totems and interpretive signage
- » Public washrooms
- » Open lawn and plaza areas for festivals and events, including Remembrance Day ceremonies and the 39 Days of Summer music festival

## 6) HEIWA PARK

Distance from McAdam/Rotary = 2.4 km

- » Named in honour of Japanese Canadian residents whose homes and gardens were within walking distance of the park before they were interned
- » Benches
- » Planting
- » Pathway connection to Cairnsmore Street staircase

# 7) KIN PARK (in partnership with MNC)

Distance from McAdam/Rotary = 1.6 km

- » Jointly owned by the City of Duncan and the District of North Cowichan
- » Kin park urban youth farm community garden
- » Adventure playground

#### NORTH COWICHAN PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

Because the City of Duncan and Municipality of North Cowichan share a porous boundary, both communities benefit from facilities in the region. The following nearby key parks and recreation destinations in North Cowichan also influence planning for McAdam and Rotary Parks.

- 8 ISLAND SAVINGS CENTRE (CVRD facility) Distance from McAdam/Rotary = 1.6 km
  - » Ice arena
  - » Cowichan Performing Arts Centre
  - » Multi-purpose hall / gymnasium
  - » Dance / gymnastics / fitness hall
  - » Meeting rooms and classrooms
  - » Studios
  - » Industrial kitchen
  - » Public washrooms
- COWICHAN AQUATIC CENTRE (in partnership with City of Duncan)
  Distance from McAdam/Rotary = 1.5 km
  - » Lazy river, wave pool, water slides, 25 m lap pool, steam room, sauna, swirl pool
  - » Fitness centre
  - » Meeting spaces
  - » Public washrooms
- X-TREME SKATE PARKDistance from McAdam/Rotary = 1.5 kmConcrete urban-style skate park
- COWICHAN SPORTSPLEX
  - Distance from McAdam/Rotary = 1.3 km
  - » International standard rubberized track
  - » Full-size grass sportsfield
  - » Full-size artificial turf field with lighting (field hockey, ultimate frisbee, soccer, field lacrosse)
  - » 3 softball diamonds with lighting (also used for soccer, ultimate frisbee, field lacrosse)
  - » Fenced lacrosse box with lighting
  - » 660 m walking loop
  - » Nature trail
  - » Outdoor fitness facility
  - » Accessible children's playground
  - » Public washrooms



### SOMENOS CREEK DOG PARK

Distance from McAdam/Rotary = 1.6 km

- » 1/2 acre fenced dog park with separate areas for large and small dogs
- » Obstacle course
- » Benches
- » Public washrooms
- » Lighting
- » Drinking fountain



### ART MANN PARK

Distance from McAdam/Rotary = 2.8 km

- » Natural areas
- » Playground
- » Picnic tables and benches
- » Boat launch
- » Public washrooms



#### 14) SOMENOS MARSH

Distance from McAdam/Rotary = 2.2 km

- » Natural areas
- » Trails
- » Accessible boardwalk
- » Interpretive information
- » Wildlife viewing platform

In addition to the key parks and recreation areas described, there a number of smaller neighbourhood parks in North Cowichan and the CVRD, along with major regional and provincial parks that are within a 10-15 minute drive, including Mt Tzouhalem Ecological Reserve, Cowichan River Provincial Park, Glenora Trails Head Park, and Bright Angel Park, which offer swimming, hiking, camping, picnicking, playgrounds, and opportunities for experiencing nature.

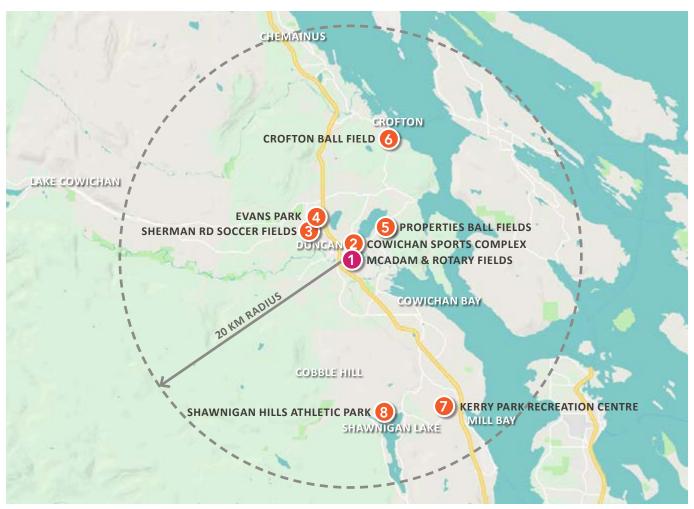
School grounds also provide outdoor spaces with amenities like playgrounds, courts, and fields that may be available outside school hours. Opportunities exist for schools to utilize parks in their curriculum – for example, using nature areas in environmentally-focused programs and learning.



### REGIONAL MULTI-USE SPORTS FIELD FACILITIES

Provision of quality outdoor sports fields for football, soccer, and other field sports is a key role for McAdam and Rotary Parks. Both McAdam and Rotary Fields are well used and form part of the broader sports field services in the region. While there is not space to consider additional sports fields within the parks, opportunities such as upgrading to artificial turf to extend hours and seasons of play could warrant consideration if regional demands increase in the future.

The following map summarizes the location and provision of multi-use sports fields in public parks within 20 km of McAdam and Rotary Parks. Note this summary does not include softball or baseball fields as these sports are not available nor anticipated at McAdam or Rotary Parks. In addition to parks spaces, School District 79 and local private schools have field spaces associated with schools in the region.



Map 27: Parks with Multi-use Sports Fields within 20 km of McAdam & Rotary Parks

#	FIELD	LOCATION	MULTI-USE FIELDS AVAILABLE	TYPICAL FIELD SPORTS
1	MCADAM & ROTARY PARKS	Duncan	» 2 full-size grass fields (one with lighting)	<ul><li>» Football</li><li>» Soccer</li><li>» Field Lacrosse</li><li>» Rugby</li></ul>
2	COWICHAN SPORTS COMPLEX	North Cowichan	<ul><li>» 1 full-size artificial turf field (lighting)</li><li>» 1 full-size grass field (lighting)</li></ul>	<ul><li>» Field Hockey</li><li>» Ultimate Frisbee</li><li>» Soccer</li><li>» Field Lacrosse</li></ul>
3	SHERMAN RD SOCCER FIELDS	North Cowichan	<ul> <li>» 1 full-size artificial turf field (lighting)</li> <li>» 1 full-size grass field (lighting)</li> <li>» 1 junior-size grass field</li> <li>» 5 mini grass fields</li> </ul>	» Soccer
4	EVANS PARK	North Cowichan	» 2 full-size grass fields	<ul><li>» Soccer</li><li>» Baseball</li><li>» Soccer</li><li>» Field Lacrosse</li></ul>
5	PROPERTIES BALL FIELDS	Maple Bay	» 1 full-size grass field	» Soccer
6	CROFTON BALL FIELD	Crofton	» 1 full-size grass field	
7	KERRY PARK RECREATION CENTRE	Mill Bay	» 1 full-size grass field	<ul><li>» Soccer</li><li>» Lacrosse</li><li>» Field Hockey</li><li>» Rugby</li><li>» Football</li></ul>
8	SHAWNIGAN LAKE ATHLETIC PARK	Shawnigan Lake	» 1 full-size grass field	» Soccer





